

MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM

EXTRA

The Motion Picture

機動戦士ガンダム



FRONT VIEW

890yen

DAWN. A tranquil Swiss chalet glows in the morning light.

1 4

DAWN A French villiage wakes. Shopkeepers set out tables.

2 4

DAWN. A classic Japanese Seascape. The water is still. Birds cry. The shadow of a hawk passes over. Then, strangely, as we watch, the wind blows the mist from the cliffs. We see the distant horizon. But something's wrong. It goes the wrong way. It's not convex, it's concave. We're inside. Past Japan, see the French villiage, and above it on the curve of the hill, the Swiss chalet. This isn't Japan. It isn't the Earth. Up above, it's not a hawk either.

3 14

ABOVE Circling and spinning, two kids on their morning flight. Nora, 12, sails gracefully on silvery mylar wings. Sha, 13, in red racing wings, tucks and drops down at her, forcing her to spill air to avoid him. She drops, then glides away, gracefully searching for a morning thermal among the cliffs..

4 13

BELOW a Japanese house by a lagoon. Amaru, 15, yells from the window.

5 22

AMARU

Sha...Don't fly that low. Those wings won't support full gravity.

SHA

Come on up, Amaru. Screw the computer. Keep Dad waiting for once.

AMARU

I can't. Sha, keep her high enough. Her wings aren't as strong as yours.

Suddenly Sha tucks his wings and dives straight down at the ground. Nora and Amaru are horrified. At the last moment, He spreads, catches air and swoops up. He calls proudly:

6

SHA

Hey big brother, When you can do that, you can tell me how to fly.

Amaru turns from the window. His terminal waits, blinking.

ABOVE - SPACE STATION - They soar near the inside rim, where gravity is light and their wings hold them effortlessly above the torus - a giant tube containing the habitat...fields, rivers, lakes, hills, and villiages. The rim is transparent...reflected sunlight spills down...an artificial dawn marches around the perimeter..Others fly in the distance, on every kind of flying contraption, accompanied by pet sparrows.

7 17

~~Unicyclists twirl high up the slope, aided by low grav.~~ Sha circles over his house, calling to his mother, Camellia, who gardens below. ~~As far as you can see, there is tranquility.~~

8 2

2
9
OUTSIDE - IN SPACE - Other creatures also sail silently.
Massive, heavily armored, they carry weapons and glide in silent
formation...ZAK MOBIL SUITS.

10
AIRLOCK -One of the ZAKS opens the lock. They glide silently
through. Somewhere an ALARM goes off. To the side, in the lock
control room, figures rush about in confusion. The ZAKS ignore
them. At the inner door, one of the ZAKS sets a charge.
BAAAWHHOOOOMB. Air and debris blow outward. The ZAKS rush in.

11
INSIDE - EXPLOSIONS BLAST the periphery of the station.

12
SHA AND NORA are knocked about...Her feathers shredded, she
grabs an aerial perch and clings to it in shock. Sha fights
against air pressure.

13
INT. HOUSE - AMARU looks up from his work. The very ground seems
to rumble and shake. A Spacequake?

14
INT. THE AIRLOCK - The ZAKS tumble through firing. Their heavy
weapons blast a control tower...shutting it down. Other ZAKS
spray the area with light weapons designed for shock. Humans run
in panic far below. SEE the scale of these things. ENORMOUS!
..100-meter tall GREEN MONSTERS.. Giant metal feet dig into the
soil with the recoil of their guns.

15
A TRANSMISSION TOWER smashes to the ground. A vent is torn up, a
giant control wing is hit. It flutters to the ground, burning.

16
EXT. JAPANESE HOUSE - Amaru, on the lawn with his mother.

CAMELLIA

Amaru, where are the kids?

He speaks into a transceiver.

AMARU

Sha, where are you?

17
ABOVE - The kids are blown toward a skywalk. Sha grabs it as he
is blown past. He grabs Nora. They crawl up, out of sight.

18
BELOW - Amaru enters the house. Camellia follows him to his
room. He grabs his pocket computer and a "black box".

CAMELLIA

Don't go out there, Amaru,
it's too dangerous.

AMARU

It's dangerous here. Stay inside.
Father will know what to do.
(he tries to hold him.)
He'll need this. It's important.
(He pulls away.)
Don't worry. I'll be right back.

3
19
12

20

LIT. TUNNEL
C. FERRICATINGS
J. G. ARABO
TUNNEL WORKS LTD.
BK. ITING
ARABO - ARABO
TUNNEL

50 21

INT. TUNNEL - A strong, intelligent looking man, 45, grasps him. 22
TIM RAY 1:30

22
1:30

1:30

TIM RAY

ALVA

TIM RAY

ALVA
No. COM-HUB was the first hit.

AMARU
Who are they, father? What
do they want?

TIM RAY
Where's your mother?..

AMARU
She's in the house.

TIM RAY
and the kids..?

Amaru tries to turn away...His father holds him back.

AMARU
I don't know...They were flying.
I didn't see them after that...I
thought you needed this.

Too late for recriminations..They move down a ramp that becomes
crowded with people rushing frantically.

REMY
They're jamming all frequencies.

TIM RAY
Any response?

REMY
None...we're alone.

MOLLOY
At least thirty mobil suits.

TIM RAY
How many are we?

REMY
Not enough.

MOLLOY
Doesn't matter. We've got no weapons.

SARA
We got lasers.

REMY
...and they've got mobil suits.

TIM RAY (to Amaru)
Find a circuit. Get through to your
mother. Tell her to bring the kids here.

5
They argue heatedly. Amaru flips rapidly through COM-CHANNELS.
A GREAT BLAST...THEN TWO MORE, CLOSER..rocks them.

23

SARA
Lets do something.

ALVA
Lets give up.

They pause, considering this, then Molloy breaks the spell.

MOLLOY
Hell, we can always do that.
Besides, they haven't asked.

REMY
Maybe they want to get our
attention first.

Another BLAST

SARA
They got it!

A COMCHANNEL breaks in. On screen: an IMPERIOUS FIGURE speaks.

ZIONG
People of Oneil Seven. Welcome to
the greater Ziong Co-Prosperity
Sphere...I...am Ziong.

REMY
What an asshole! (clicks it off)

PAOLO
Well, we can run, or we can fight.

SARA
Run? In what? Where the hell to?

REMY
Okay...We fight!

TIM RAY
We run and fight.

Tim turns. In the distance, a huge scaffolded shape.

PAOLO (incredulous)
That old wreck...That's a factory ship,
not a fighter.

TIM RAY
That's all we got.

PAOLO
It's not enough.

More people rush in, followed by BLASTS.

ALVA
They're in 5Deck...They got all of A
ring. B's out too.

AMARU
The circuits..I can't get through.

BATTLE SOUNDS, getting closer. Tim Ray, Remy and the others grab
weapons, rush to meet it. Tim turns to Molloy as he runs...

24

TIM RAY
Get it ready. There isn't much
time. Come on, Amaru.

TUNNEL ENTRANCE - Defenders pull back slowly, hand held blasters
barely slowing down the ZAKS. ...A ragged figure approaches; SHA.

25

25

SHA
Father!
TIM RAY
Sha! Stay back.....

He pulls Sha back. The kids follow Tim down a side passage
emerging in his laboratory.. He crosses to his console and
programs rapidly...Amaru moves to the computer. They work
quickly in perfect communication. Sha looks on, jealously.
They complete the program, Tim rips into the console, tears out
memory modules.. Tim, Amaru and Sha bolt through the door.

26

ACCESS TUNNEL - They run down the slope, choking and stumbling
over dust and debris...They come to a split...Tim stops.

27
21

SHA
I'm coming with you.

TIM RAY
No, Sha. You can't help here.

SHA
I'm old enough, Father.

TIM RAY
You're old enough to listen to me.
Get your mother. Bring her here.

SHA
I'll help you fight them.

TIM

You will...by doing as I say.
Go now. Sha...

He starts off. Amaru looks at Sha, then runs after Tim. Sha watches, angry. Tim turns and waves him away. Then they're gone.

FURTHER DOWN THE TUNNEL. Amaru lags behind in the dim light. Suddenly, he bumps into his father. Tim has stopped. He listens, then he turns, slams Amaru, knocking him into a smaller tunnel. Amaru rolls to the side.

Suddenly...IT'S BLACK...IT'S SILENT...Then the NOISE and LIGHT of the EXPLOSION CRASHES in on him...He picks himself up, woosily. A near hit. He stumbles back where his father was... There is nothing left...just smoke, flames...He crawls around... NO ONE. He clutches a dusty object; his father's "black box".

THE BREECH - AMARU crawls through into the open. ZAKS are attacking! He tears through the rubble, screaming..."Father"! His movement draws fire. A ZAK lobs a shot at him. He ducks. It smashes into the bulkhead above, showering him with sparks. He takes off, forced into the open. Two ZAKS break from their group, move in his direction. A rocket sails overhead.

AHEAD: the deck ends in a VAST CHASM. Behind, the ZAKS, in hot pursuit. Near Amaru, bare walls, nowhere to hide. A BLAST lifts him, he skids, falls, launches himself over the edge...

The ZAKS shoot past, their velocity carrying them over the far edge. Their braking jets ROAR.

AMARU - falling toward a FABRICATING AREA...a latticework of struts and cables. Far below a huge INDISTINCT FORM shrouded in shields. Amaru's not falling fast enough...low-grav! He swims down, grabs a cable and launches himself. He glances back.

AMARU'S POV - ZAKS appear at the lip of the pit, red scanning beams sweeping from their eyes.

BELOW - AN ENORMOUS SHIELD - AMARU slips quickly under. A MASSIVE FORM lies dormant. He slides on slippery alloy slabs, over an abyss. SOUNDS of ZAK pursuers filter down. He finds the right receptacle, pulls out his Father's computer, pops it in, and punches in code.

ABOVE - A ZAK fires. A TOWER shatters. Flaming pieces fall.

BELOW - The pieces rattle off the magnetically held shield. The force field warps but holds as Amaru completes the sequence.

ABOVE - THE ZAKS get a message. 79 answers it.

ZAK 79 (V.O.)

Someone went down there.

THEY get an order. They look at each other; if machines could shrugg....they aim their guns at the form and BLAST away.

THE SHIELD - taking direct hits, starts to tear away. Amaru is rocked by the explosions.

ABOVE - The ZAKS are joined by a Heavy Weapons ZAK, 134. They designate the target. He BLASTS it with his rocket launcher.

AMARU is slammed to the ground. Dazed, he crawls back, completes the sequence. A click. A beep. a small door swings open. He hits a lever. The slab under him slides back, he pitches into the interior. He lands hard, lurches for ~~the hatch lock~~. The hatch CLANGS shut as a rocket slams in, blowing away the shield.

THE ZAKS, excited, rush over the edge and blast downward.

INSIDE - AMARU crawls. The interior reverberates under the BLASTS, but the blows are muffled. A bigger BLAST... He is thrown forward and trapped...by a NET, a WEB. He struggles to right himself, the mesh clings to his body, forms gauntlets around his hands. He lies suspended as it binds him. He slips into a natural position, reaches forward, touches a console... a FLASH of light ...walls glow, disappear. IMAGES form:

THE ZAKS - FROM BELOW - They drop in battle formation. Retro-rockets HISS. The scouts scan the perimeter. 134 swings his launcher this way, FIRES. Shielding BLOWS OFF.

INSIDE - AMARU - Hits his controls...distant motors WHINE. The WEB GLOWS...a colored pattern radiates...it's a NEURAL web. He moves his arm.

OUTSIDE - THE ZAKS are thrown off balance...as the slab they are standing on...moves. 134 looks down at the form he straddles.

ZAK 79

A mobil suit...It's moving!

ZAK 134

Blast it!

ZAKS BLAST away. More shielding's blown off, a form revealed... A MOBIL SUIT - name etched on the breast...GUNDAM.

ZAK 79

That's it. GUNDAM!

INSIDE - AMARU looks up at the ZAK straddling him...The metal face is impassive...The business end of the launcher swings around point-blank in his face...Amaru struggles for control...

ZAK 134 - Turns to the others...

ZAK 134

Record this.

He swings back, they turn to him. He puts the muzzle right under GUNDAM'S chin..The audible CLICK of his safety...

AMARU - In desperation, yanks his arm.

OUTSIDE. ZAK 134 squeezes the trigger. An instant before it fires...A lightning fast movement: GUNDAM'S arm snaps up...It catches the ZAK where his metal balls would be. BAAAWHANG! Flames shoot from it's crotch. It ROCKETS; spinning straight up through the roof and EXPLODES outside. Panels flutter down.

ZAK79 - If a 100-meter tall fighting machine could gawk, 79 is doing it now. He's caught, leaning over Gundam. Gundam's left knocks 79's head cleanly from his shoulders. It careens off the far bulkhead 1000 meters away. Gundam stirs. The headless ZAK topples off. Gundam knocks around like a captured beast.

INSIDE - AMARU struggles to learn the controls...His movements are either too broad or too fine.

OUTSIDE - GUNDAM struggles to RISE. ZAK salvos ricochet off a transformer. A cable lands on Gundam. Energy SPARKS over him.

INSIDE - AMARU looks down, sees the ZAK rocket launcher at GUNDAM'S feet. He leans down in his netting, reaches...

OUTSIDE - GUNDAM mimics AMARU'S motion. Awkwardly he grabs for the rocket launcher. The firing increases.

AMARU - Searches the computer screens for control functions. He switches the imaginary LAUNCHER from one hand to the other.

GUNDAM - Swings the real LAUNCHER in perfect synch with Amaru...

AMARU - finds the LAUNCHER SPECS in wire-frame detail on the DATASCREEN...it's ballistic detail displayed below. He finds the targeting port and safety release.

GUNDAM'S HAND releases the safety.

INSIDE - targeting information from Gundam's computer feeds into the gunsight...RANGING TONES SQUEAL as the muzzle is swung toward the targets. The VIDSCREENS cut through the haze with sonar/infrared imaging. The computer assigns colors to each ZAK according to shot angle, range, hit probability and threat...The SCOUT ZAKS are yellow/orange, they move aside for something red.

OUTSIDE - ZAKS lay down suppressing fire. The RED threat, a ZAK356 Heavy Weapons, moves up his rocket launcher.

INSIDE GUNDAM - Evasion alarms SHRIEK. ranging/targeting circles zoom at 356. The launcher throbs in violet...a DEADLY THREAT.

OUTSIDE - ZAK356 abruptly swings and FIRES. Gundam FIRES at the same instant. The two rockets snake out, meet head on, and LIGHT UP the entire hanger with the BLAST. Gundam tumbles backwards as the supports collapse around him.

INSIDE - the cockpit tumbles, Amaru whips the controls.

OUTSIDE - GUNDAM rolls. Heavy FIRE follows him. He straightens, thruster jets blast from his ports. He ROCKETS upwards, spinning, glancing off the walls, and BLASTS straight through the bulkhead into SPACE.

C4
 D RING - A FABRICATION AREA IN ONEAL'S CENTRAL HUB. -The colonists put a SHIP together under intense fire. The ship, WHITE BASE, is modular...designed by computer, assembled like a child's erector set and held by magnetic forces. The colonists use remote-controlled robots - WALDOS - to move components to the central core. As they move an ENGINE MODULE into place, it's blasted apart by ZAK fire.

INT. WHITE BASE - COMMAND CENTER Vidscreens show the robots moving swiftly, like a swarm of giant termites. *62*

PAOLO *OPT*

C ring's gone. They're cut off. *21*

MOLLOY

How long do we have?

PAOLO

Right now is too late..

PAOLO points to the COMPUTER PROBABILITY ON ESCAPE: prob:23%

REMY

Message from the ZAK commander.

PAOLO

What is it?

REMY

Surrender.

PAOLO

That's it?

REMY

That's it. What do I tell them?

Paolo looks around. Damage reports FLASH. All eyes are on him.

PAOLO

Tell them to go ~~fuck~~ themselves.

They turn back to their duties...Remy smiles, keys the COMCON.

REMY

Oneil Seven to ZAK Commander... *5*

OPT
 INT. ZAK MOTHER SHIP - COMBAT COMMAND/COMMUNICATIONS CENTER.(C4) *69*
 Victory reports FLASH. The Commander stands regally in the B.G.
 The ComOfficer puts his hands to the earphones... *7*

COM-OFF

I..didn't copy. Repeat please.

The commander flicks on the P. A. All hands turn to the console.

INT. WHITE BASE - COMMAND - Remy enjoys himself.

11

76

REMY

...And your Mother!

He pulls the plug on them.

REMY

I don't think they like us anymore.

JAPANESE GARDEN - HOUSE IN B.G. - Amaru's mother, Camelia, runs through, frantic...we follow. A raggedy figure emerges from the woods. Sha. Alone. She hugs him..then looks past him. A ROAR. ZAKS fly over. They turn and flee toward the house...they never make it.. A giant FOOT slams down. A ZAK looms over them. The ground shakes, ~~another ZAK lands; a command model~~...more COM antennae. It has the stance of authority. The other ZAK keeps watch. The command ZAK glares at them...Its legs hiss and pop where they stand in the edge of ~~the fish pond~~. Camelia puts Sha behind her...He struggles to get out and make trouble.

71 135

71A

71B

71C

CAMILIA

Don't make it mad...

Sha looks at her like she's nuts. The ZAK'S enormous hand swings slowly to what looks like a Roman salute. The wrist rotates, the palm opens upward. A CHESTPLATE slides to the side, revealing part of the interior. ~~a figure appears...menacing~~. It steps onto the palm and the palm ~~DESCENDS~~, the man is deposited on the ground. The bodyguard ZAKS are on full alert...The LIEUTENANT pops the seal on his helmet as he approaches Camelia and Sha.

SEQ.

72

72A

B

C

D

LIEUTENANT

Camilia Ray?

CAMELIA (angry)

All this destruction, for what?

LIEUTENANT (complacently)

"Chaos is everywhere. Unless someone unites the colonies, there will be mountains of dead."

CAMELIA

And who's going to do that?

He looks around, just a touch of humor.

LIEUTENANT

Me.

CAMELIA

What do you want?

LIEUTENANT
Tim Ray.

CAMELIA
He's not here, as you can see.

Sha twists out of her grasp, runs out in front.

SHA
If he was here, he'd kick your butt.

Camelia yells at Sha, and pulls him back. The Lt. glares at him, then breaks into a grin. His words have a double meaning.

LIEUTENANT
Nice kid.

CAMELIA
You leave him alone!

LIEUTENANT
Or what?

DEBRIS

12

EXT. WHITE BASE The ZAKS close in to cut off escape.

INSIDE WB - THE REAR GUARD scampers aboard under close-in fire.

PAOLO (worried)
Where is Tim?

ALVA
They hit his position. I don't think he made it.
(They are stunned)
I don't know for sure...didn't see.

A BLAST - A NEAR MISS glancing off the shields rocks them.

MOLLOY
It's now or never.

Paolo checks the computer. He looks up ruefully.

DATA SCREEN: ESCAPE PROBABILITY : 17%

PAOLO
Never.

OUTSIDE - SPACE - GUNDAM - floats concealed in a cloud of debris. A ZAK patrol searches. HEAR their RANGERS scanning. The MOTHERSHIP swings into view around the curve of the torus.

76

7

INSIDE GUNDAM - AMARU grapples with the battle computers.

77

AMARU

Father...Come in...Dammit...
Hello..Gundam to base.. Gundam to
Anywhere. ~~This~~ is Amaru...Damn!

THE SCREENS shift constantly, but the data is garbage. A ZAK
RANGING PROBE, fired his way WHOOFS up the spectrum as it
flashes by. Amaru punches in frantically. A CHANNEL CLEARS - AN
IMAGE ON THE SCREEN - HIS FATHER. He looks sternly at Amaru.

TIM RAY

Amaru?!

AMARU

Father!...Where are you?

TIM RAY

You're not to play in Gundam.

AMARU

Play!...

TIM RAY

Reset and shut down. Don't let me
catch you again.

AMARU

Reset?!!! The ZAKS are all over.
Where are you. Help me..father?

TIM RAY

The ZAKS...

AMARU

The goddamn ZAKS! I thought they
killed you...the tunnel..

TIM RAY

I understand.

AMARU

Understand!!!!..You come and get
me...You gotta fight Gundam...I
don't know how...You...

TIM RAY
I understand.

Then, finally, Amaru understands...He snaps out.

AMARU
No!...You understand nothing.
You're not my father, you're just a
program...

TIM RAY
Amaru...I'd be with you if I could.
Now you are a man. You must take
over. We designed Gundam together,
with this in mind. He will respond
to you as he would to me. Use him.
Protect our family and Oneil. Don't
let him fall into the wrong hands.
If you fight, strike first, don't
hold back....Be Careful. Good bye,
...Amaru...I love you.

AMARU
Father, don't leave!

The computerized image hangs for a moment, then reanimates.

TIM RAY
Believe in yourself, Amaru.

The IMAGE smiles, then digitizes out. BLANGGGGG - A near BLAST
rattles the cockpit...

AMARU (to himself)
I believe..I believe. I believe
I'm in deep shit.

OUTSIDE - WHITE BASE - More ZAK fire. WALDOS orbit the battle
field. Lasers light up the void. An explosion blows a convex
bubble in B ring..It vents gasses and matter..

INT. WHITE BASE CONTROL - Paolo, Sara, others at COM DESK.

SARA
Awful distorted..2.2 seconds.
Com-Net transmission.

PAOLO
What was it?

6

79
7

80

SARA
Looked like Tim.

SPACE - GUNDAM sweeps over a tear in ONEAL'S curved outer hull. 2 31

INT. SPACE STATION ONEIL - THE HOLD - GUNDAM sweeps in, through the breach, on alert, it is empty of ZAKS -- The cargo has been blown into a tangled mess in the far end. Gundam flies over it, searching with his sensors. 32 8

INSIDE GUNDAM - DATA SCREENS - AMARU notices a shape. 5 33

GUNDAM - dives into the wreckage, roots under it like a mole. - 6 34
His track ends at a massive, lethal shape.

OUTSIDE - SPACE - THE ZAKS move in...warily. 35 3

ZAK
Something in that hold.

THE MOTHER SHIP - Ranges fire down on the White Base. The ZAK patrol moves into attack formation on Gundam's position.. 36 4

THE HOLD - GUNDAM struggles to move a massive torpedo launcher. 37 3

INT. WHITE BASE CONTROL ROOM - Desperation. 38 9

MOLLOY
Drop the shields, give her full power and blast out of here.

TARU
They won't last much longer anyway.

PAOLO
Can't drop em while we're sighted.

TARU
Can't stay here and cook either.

PAOLO
Any sign of Tim?.

SARA
Nothing...

OUTSIDE - SPACE - ZAKS - They sweep closer, see Gundam. 2 39

INT. THE HOLD - GUNDAM - He swings the launcher into the gap. 1 40

INSIDE GUNDAM - Amaru locks his computer on the MOTHERSHIP 41 3

new 2/15

16 12 92

SPACE - The ZAKS fire...He launches...The salvo streams straight through the ZAK patrol, knocking them about, then arcs for and tears into the MOTHERSHIP. The ship lights up in multicolored aura as the shielding warps and flashes under the attack.

INT MOTHERSHIP - It's rocked...Viewscreens break up into static. 93

2 1

ZAK OFFICER
Overload...

INT. WHITE BASE CONTROL ROOM - They watch the ZAK ship sparkle. 94

Video 16

MOLLOY
Now! While they're blind...

PAOLO
Drop shields. All power to
propulsion. Hit it.

MOLLOY starts the firing sequence.

SARA
The ZAK battle channel.

PAOLO
Hang on...What was it?

SARA
Something about a mobil suit.

PAOLO
Tim...

MOLLOY
Too late. Can't stop now. They'll
be back at us in a second.
(Paolo hesitates)
He gave us a chance. Don't blow it.

MAJORS AND
POSITION
EXPLOSION

ONEIL - The WHITEBASE blasts off nanoseconds before a salvo crashes into its position. 95

GUNDAM picks up an MAR (Mobil Assault Rifle) and flies outward toward the escaping WHITEBASE. The ZAKS regroup to cut him off. 96

ZAK 17
Close the range.

ZAK 39
Don't take chances.

INSIDE GUNDAM - VIDSCREEN - The ZAK patrol moves between him and the ship. Amaru checks his computers. They flash red.

FIRE POWER -36%
PROPULSION -16%
SHIELDING -29
INTERCEPT TARGET - (WHITEBASE)

OUTSIDE GUNDAM - He looks behind him. No good. Coming around the torus...another ZAK patrol. He is caught in the middle. They spot him. The air is filled with their BATTLE/COM.

ZAK 17
Spread out. Close him. You're point, 28.

ZAK28 moves out front into intercept position...Behind Gundam, near ONEAL, the trailing patrol assumes attack formation.

INSIDE GUNDAM - WARNING LIGHTS flash - Losing propulsion. VIDSCREEN: WHITEBASE speeds away. WARNING TONES! Amaru pivots, a trailing ZAK has loosed off a burst from his MAR. Tracers streak by Gundam's head. He retro-thrusts downward. They streak off into space. He turns, a blocking ZAK fires from the front.

OUTSIDE - GUNDAM jets back, between the two groups. One of the trailing gunners, following Gundam, shoots into the opposite ZAKS, scattering them. Much yelling on the BATTLE/COM. Gundam darts around, keeping constantly between at least two ZAKS. Whenever any one of the ZAKS gets a clear shot, he takes it... A zigging 3 dimensional dogfight.

INSIDE GUNDAM - Amaru...an idea.

OUTSIDE GUNDAM - The ZAKS in front close quickly, bring guns to bear...GUNDAM swings his launcher on them they swing their shields into place. Then he flips and fires everything he has at the trailing ZAKS. The recoil spins him and thrusts him hard backwards...The rocket bursts scatter the ZAK'S formation...

GUNDAM, tightly spinning, appears from the smoke. He zooms toward the ZAK blockers. Something GLOWS in his hand..

ZAK
Careful, lead him. 28, make the shot.

28 lifts his shield for the easy shot...At the last moment, Gundam snap rolls, and straightens. He's on them...then through them...ZWOPP-ZWIOP-SZWOOOP...His laser sword cuts through the ZAK'S belly under his shield...The gutted ZAK cooks...bathed in static blue fire..

GUNDAM - HIS LASER SWORD - impaling the leader, spins, kicks him off it...back toward the others...A BLAST.. TWO MORE..

ATK. BLAST
BLow

18

GUNDAM - SHIELD EXTENDED RIDES THE FORCE OF THE BLAST LIKE A SURFER, rocketing toward the WHITEBASE. The ship is taking hits, immersed in fire. Gundam's power burns out. He floats silently.

INT. WHITE BASE CONTROL ROOM - They are blind, screens filled with static. Damage reports flit by rapidly, pinpointing weak spots...The shield HOWLS under the load...A METALLIC CLANG -

SARA

The hull.

PAOLO

Is it holed?

MOLLOY

No. it wasn't explosive.

REMY

A ZAK! How'd he get through?

MOLLOY

Came in slowly, under the threshold. Throw him off before he breaches the hull.

SARA punches the switch...The ship bucks and twists. GROANING under the strain. The violent maneuvers throw everyone around.

MOLLOY

He's still there.

PAOLO

What's he doing?

MOLLOY

Just hanging on...

SARA

Setting charges... Or a photon target...

ALVA

Drop the shield. It's what's holding him there.

REMY

That's what they want.

ALVA

Then reverse it. Throw him off.

A WHANG...WHANG WHANG...Big dents walk up the far bulkhead. 110

SARA

Let's serve him tea. Here he comes.

PAOLO

Evacuate Command...Seal it up. Set the charges.

MOLLOY

There are no charges. There was no time.

PAOLO

Everybody out. Now!

SARA, REMY zip their suits, lock weapons. The dents walk closer. 111

SARA

He's up to the screenfield.

MOLLOY

Go for the face.

Something appears on screen; A SCORCHED MOBIL SUIT, sparking violet in the force shield. It turns its face. 112

SARA

Gundam!

MOLLOY

Good God, it's Tim.

PAOLO

Get through to him. Can we get him inside?

MOLLOY

Here come our friends...

SCREENS CLEAR - They see firing and ZAKS headed their way.. 113

PAOLO

Deploy chaff. Get out of here.

SIT SCAM STARGATE
RADAR DEBOYS
ASSUMING
RADAR DEBOYS
HOT STUFF
20 C 9. 114 (4)
THE PURSUING ZAKS POV - A swirling cloud of eletromagnetism (CHAFF) from the WHITE BASE. Phony targets swirl and BLEEP and WHOOF off in eccentric patterns. A mess of targeting confusion.

115 (4)
INSIDE A ZAK - The pilot is assaulted by HOWLS from his targeting computers. Screens are filled with swirling colors. Then right in front of him...Another ZAK.

116A
116C
EXT - TWO ZAKS COLLIDE - Others crash into them. The PURSUING SHIPS - Slew around wildly as their computers lock on to phantom targets. Space is filled with CLANGING, dented metal.

ZAK COMMANDER
28 go to manual. You'll kill us all.

117
118
V.P.
WHITE BASE ARCS AWAY, SPINNING, GUNDAM HELD TO THE BODY LIKE A HAB TO THE WHALE. Chaff trailing phantoms as, CLOSE ON GUNDAM THEY JUMP TO WARP SPEED.

INT. WHITE BASE CONTROL ROOM - LATER

PAOLO
Tim still with us?
Can you raise him?

SARA
Cycling all channels. He's either got his reception locked out...or..

PAOLO
Or what?

119 12
INSIDE GUNDAM - AMARU - lies immobile, semi-conscious. Power surges flick through the cockpit. A VOICE in his brain.

TIM
...not enough time. My fault...Message for Camelia
...please transmit..

His finger finds the transmit button. A PULSE fires out.

120
315
ONEIL - INT.JAPANESE HOUSE - Under the watchful eyes of the Lieutenant and guards, Camelia takes Sha's mind off things with a game of three dimensional GO. The P.A. system squawks in B.G.

P.A.
.... cease fire. All hostile actions are to cease as of this moment.

Camellia makes a final move; a good one.

SHA

Father always said you were a
master of defense.

CAMELIA

Your mind's not on the game.

SHA

You sacrificed half your soldiers.

CAMELIA

I had to, to win.

Suddenly, a change in Camelia. Tim's message arrives subliminally. A flicker of sadness shadows her face. She moves to the window, looks out at the sun, breaks off an ikhabana blossom.

P.A.

...vote in the Assembly. A new
government has been formed
representing Substation Oneill...

She turns to the Lieutenant. She is regal; stoic.

CAMELIA

You've won.

ON the wallscreen, a figure appears, the name ZIONG supered
under him. He is calm, avuncular - Camelia gives away nothing. J.L.

ZIONG

You know who I am.

CAMELIA

I know what you are.

ZIONG

Where is Tim Ray?

CAMELIA

I don't know.

ZIONG

That's hard to believe.

CAMELLIA

That's not my concern.

ZIONG

Looks like he had an escape plan.
Looks like it didn't include the
two of you.

SHA

Get out of here, leave us alone.

Sha bursts toward the screen, violently protective.

ZIONG

You are Sha..How old are you now?

SHA

None of your business. Just get lost. This is our house. Get your men out of here.

ZIONG

Here's one with spirit. I like that.

CAMELIA

You leave him alone.

ZIONG

To do what...spend his time in the garden? What a waste. No, I think he should visit with us...for ..a trial period.

(She says nothing)

You know I didn't want this. I made him every offer. He gave me no choice. We need that Gundam.

CAMELLIA

And now, do you have it?

ZIONG

We have the station. We have the industrial plant...and we have you. I like to look past the present unpleasantness to a more cooperative future. You might even help us convince Tim Ray to come back.

CAMELLIA

You don't know Tim.

ZIONG

It would be best to work together. Take your time. Think about it. But don't take too long. It gets cold out there.

The WALLSCREEN FADES. The Lieut. waves Sha forward.

LIEUTENANT
Come on kid. It's the legion.

SHA
The legion!!! I don't believe it.

CAMELIA
The legion fights for whoever pays.

SHA
No!

CAMELIA
Then why are they here?

LIEUTENANT (grabs Sha)
Come on, kid, it's not so bad. It's better than sitting around here.

He twists away, runs to her.

SHA
Why didn't Father come for us.

CAMELIA
He would have, if he was able.

SHA
He ran away. He left us.

CAMELIA
No.

LIEUTENANT
Move it kid. You're on legion time.

The Lieut. steps forward. A decision; she lets him go. He's pulled gently away. She turns, Cryptically:

CAMELIA
It's all right. Maybe they won't keep you.

SHA (shocked, insulted).
Maybe they won't.

EXT. GARDEN - Sha and Lieut. step onto the ZAK'S palm. It whisks them up, out of sight as Camelia watches. (2)

SHA'S POV - Camelia gets smaller as the hand rises above the trees and he sees the biosphere curving into the distance. ZAKS patrol...The NEW ORDER. Sha and Lieut. enter the ZAK'S chest.

THE ZAKS - lift to the breach in the hull as engineer ZAKS close the gaps with panels. They fly through toward a ship in orbit.

INT. SHIP - A MASSIVE HANGAR - The Zaks enter and set down.

INT. BARRACKS AREA - SHIP - LATER - pushed into a group of 12 captured Oneil kids being led down corridors by guards. He's surprised to find Nora among them.

Frightened, they are led into an ASSEMBLY ROOM - half media center, half military museum. Above the entrance, one grim sign: "Evaluation". Armed HOLO-MODELS of legionnaires in various uniforms and mobil suits line the walls, along with weapons, medals...the effect is both frightening and fascinating.

The KIDS are set into chairs, the LIGHTS dim. MARTIAL MUSIC AND DRUMS RATTLE. Restrains lock their arms. Transponders turn to focus on their heads. They look at each other apprehensively.

A door opens, a shaft of light. A long shadow on the wall. It draws longer as the figure unseen approaches the door... FOOTSTEPS. They are transfixed. Then the shadow warps strangely as if the man is transmuting. The shadow becomes a legion seal. The footsteps blend into the music...Misdirection.

SHA is the first to snap his head around. The MAN - tall, gaunt, imposing and fully forty per cent prosthesis, looks directly at Sha. The prosthesis is worn like all legion men. proudly. without covering...battle wounds..an arm and a leg, part of the opposing hand and half his skull. The COMMANDER looks down at the youngsters. His voice is quiet and terrifying.

CMMDR

How would you all like a free personality test?

INT. WHITE BASE - VIEWSCREENS - OUTSIDE, the star field spins. A work party in HARDSUITS, works on Gundam. A GRIND of metal reverberates through the ship as HE is pried from the hull. Sara opens a plate, tests Gundam's circuits as they winch him inside.

SARA (V.O.)

...battle damage..Some circuits frozen.. Power drained...barely life sustaining.

PAOLO

Any sign of Tim?...Internal scan circuits?

5
V.P.
130
15

SARA (V.O.)

Those are fried too. You better
open it up right now.

REPAIR BAY. On MAGLEVS, Gundam is moved inside. Technicians
crawl over him, plates are removed. They enter damage into the
master repair computer. A Tech hooks Gundam into ship's power.

INSIDE GUNDAM - The SCREENS come on. SEE the people outside.
Paolo speaks, his voice thin over the external pickups.

PAOLO

Tim, are you alright?

(AMARU wakes)

...disarm the safety lock.

Amaru shakes his head, seeing double...he hits switches.

OUTSIDE GUNDAM - A CLANG...WHINE. The huge hand moves up, out of
sight in the shadows...The chest plate unlocks and slides aside.
A FIGURE in shadow appears and hesitantly steps out on the palm.
Sara rushes forward. Paolo holds her back. The hand descends.

SARA

Tim!

Then they see the figure is smaller than expected.

MOLLOY

Amaru!

AMARU

Who'd you think it was?

PAOLO

Where's your father?

AMARU

Don't you know?

He's crushed by the realization. They look at him, blankly...

RELAXATION CHAMBER - LATER -FREEFALL, PLANTS FLOATING BY - A
DEEP-SPACE HOT TUB. A beautiful woman swirls into his vision,
Sara. Amaru wakes from his daze.

AMARU

Where are we?

SARA

Beyond Centauri...I think we're
near the Solax Cluster.

AMARU

Are we running away?

SARA

Yes.

INT COMBAT COMMAND - LATER - They crowd around the screen.

REMY

Found it in the ComBANK, must have
received it during the festivities.

He rolls the message from the memory...The ZAK commander.

COMMANDER BOK

Tim...be reasonable.

MOLLOY

Now they want to be reasonable.

COMMANDER BOK

...Turn back. We'll give you a
cycle's grace. Wait too long, it'll
be too late.

SARA

They think Tim's with us.

PAOLO

As long as they do, they may not
attack. If they think we're
leaderless...

SARA

Maybe they'll leave us alone, if
they think he's building more
Gundams.

MOLLOY

If they think that, they'll have to
attack us before we outgun them.

Sara turns to Amaru standing alone in the corner.

SARA

Amaru. It could be a mistake.

AMARU

He's dead, I know it. He's not with
us. They haven't found him. He
doesn't exist...except in Gundam.

PAOLO takes charge, turns to the Scientists.

PAOLO

Molloy?

MOLLOY

Well...there's good news..and
there's bad...

PAOLO

First the bad.

MOLLOY

They've got more weapons, They've
got more men. They are trained
fighters..We are not.

Paolo turns to Sara.

SARA

We're low on fuel. They occupy our
Station. We're on the run.

ALVA

We got no home except this...
nowhere to go. I can't think of
anyone who could help us.

PAOLO

And...what's the good news.

MOLLOY

We're not dead yet.

A ripple of nervous laughter.

SARA

We'll find a planet...

AMARU

I don't want a planet. I want
ONeil.

ALVA

We could go back, work against them
from the inside.

(They look skeptical)

At least it's a chance...at least
we'd be home. Instead of floating
around for the rest of our lives.

A voice from the corner of the room.

AMARU

They killed my father.

They turn to him, wearily...

ALVA

We can't fight them, it's fifty to one.

AMARU

We have Gundam..

MOLLOY

They have plenty of Mobile Suits.

SARA

Not like Gundam.

MOLLOY

He's only one.

AMARU

We'll build more.

MOLLOY

Tim built Gundam.

AMARU

We did it. We were a team.
We still are. We can do it.

ALVA

We don't have a chance.

INT. LEGION SHIP - WEEKS LATER Sha walks the corridors. He wears a uniform, his hair in a military cut. He acts older, more mature. A Marine GUARD watches, suspicious. Sha ducks around a corner, circles back, sees the Marine at an intercom. An alarm goes off. Sha rushes around a bend. At an ebb in the traffic, he slips through a door.

A STOREROOM - A pile of junk electronic components. Sha grabs the biggest piece and strudggles out the door.

CORRIDOR -Filled with Legionnaires...Sha, now an overtaxed repairman, staggers under the load. He sees a Director/panel on the wall and punches the code for Hangar Deck. It beeps alarmingly, displays a swirl of his fingerprint, his name, serial number. and a warning.

SECURITY CLEARANCE DENIED.
YOU ARE IN RESTRICTED AREA
RETURN TO CLEARED AREA AT ONCE.
REEMMUR, Sgt. OOD.

Sha hits the clear button, the message fades....He picks up the component and moves on. An older SAILOR stands before another DIRECTOR, punching in a request. Sha staggers up to him, balancing the component while reaching for the director.

SHA
Hanger Deck...B

The sailor punches it in. A wire-frame of the ship is displayed. A violet color is his path. He looks at the floor. The same violet path is displayed....along with others in different color. Sha nods thanks to the sailor and takes off.

HANGAR DECK B - FREE FALL - NEAR OPEN SPACE DOORS - A ZAK floats, undergoing refit for battle damage. Tugs and hard-suits swarm over it. ALARM TONE is heard. SHA moves toward a PNEUMATIC ACCESS TUBE. He enters, drops his component and steps into the HATCH. WHOOSH! He's sucked through the flexible tube, through SPACE and up the FLOATING ZAK'S LEG to a cockpit in its chest.

INT. TORSO - SHA - opens the cockpit door. He enters, slams the door and jumps into the control seat. He powers up, opens a ComChannel and is about to transmit when he feels a presence.

LIEUTENANT
Stealing a mobil suit? Quite the buccaneer, aren't you.

SHA
I wasn't going to steal it.

LIEUTENANT
You were going to borrow it?...a Heavy weapons MARK XII? Where were you heading, ONeil?
(Sha says nothing)
And how did you plan to fly it, it's not exactly a training skater.

SHA
I know how to run one. My father developed the ZAK.

LIEUTENANT

I know.

SHA

And the Gundam.

LIEUTENANT

What do you know of the Gundam?

SHA

Nothing...

LIEUTENANT

Your brother and your father...
they were working on it. Why were
you not involved?

SHA

I was too young...

LIEUTENANT

We don't think you're too young.

SHA

Neither do I.

LIEUTENANT

And your father, your brother.
Where are they now?

SHA

I don't know.

LIEUTENANT

So, you are alone.

SHA (angry)

Where is my mother?

LIEUTENANT (smiles)

At home.

SHA

What have you done to her?

LIEUTENANT (indignant)
Nothing. We have no quarrel with
your mother. She can come here
whenever she wants.

SHA
Let me go see her.

LIEUTENANT (chuckles)
You are free to go. You are not
free to come back.

Sha thinks this over. The Lieutenant relaxes.

LIEUTENANT
We are an Ancient and Honorable
fighting force. We take our men
from all sources. It depends on the
individual. You have been given an
opportunity to join, the promise of
a fair exam. If you can pilot a
ZAK, you may make a good
Legionaire. But let me make one
thing clear. Legion training is a
privilege, not a demand. You
haven't been held these past eight
weeks under any coercion. In fact,
it will take all your efforts to
make the grade. You are free...at
any time...to resign and go live
with your mother on O'Neil.

SHA
That's not true. You took me to
punish my father.

LIEUTENANT (stands)
Your father left you behind.

SHA
he looks

LIEUTENANT
We'd welcome him, and your brother.
There are many real threats, we
shouldn't be fighting among
ourselves. They should return. The
fact that they don't speaks for
itself...We are not your captors.
We are your benefactors. Your own
family left you. We are the 649th
legion. and we do not abandon our
comrades in a fight.

THIS IS SIMUL.
SHOULD NOT LOOK
REAL.
CONTINUED?

32

DEEP SPACE - A MELE - SPACE SUITS, one side identified by red markings, the other by gold, attack each other at frightening speed...blasting,...ducking behind objects...in free fall. The reds attack a BATTLECRUISER. The gold defenders block them at every turn, setting ambushes and enfilades. A man is hit. His armor locks up and he floats away. SHA, the RED leader, and his men work their way to the hull under covering fire...

141
130

ZAK

29, 43. Range it.

(A rocket hits the hull)

Fire for effect.

A salvo slams in, blows the hatch open. A RED breaks for it.

SHA

No. Nora!

He rockets toward NORA, knocks her aside.

NORA

What are you doing?

Their momentum carries them past the opening to the far curve of the hull. They hug it without contact.

SHA

Blast it from here.

Sha unhooks and arms a LIMPET LASER, a magnetic torch.

SHA

Now!

The soldiers fire at the entrance. Sha clamps the limpet further down the hull. It cuts through in seconds, Smoke and Gas blows out. Sha follows it in.

SHOCK

INSIDE - CRUISER - Sha at full power, rockets in, corkscrewing as he drops, blasting everything, He throws a contact grenade at the floor and drops through that hole out of immediate danger.

142

LOWER LEVEL - He flips and caroms, checking all angles. Nothing. He BLASTS through a wall, takes off down the corridor.

143

BLOWN HATCH AREA - SHA approaches defenders from behind.

144

SHA

Now, Ruther!

Concentrated small arms fire from the front. Red troopers zip into view briefly, firing on the fly. In the darkened hold, defending troops movements make them easy targets. The assault hits. Defenders fire.

Sha steps out and knocks them off from behind - rapid fire...His platoon takes the hatch. They fan out, well trained. A battle-tech shorts the wiring. Lights, horns and motors go wild. They brace against bucking accelerations. Sha senses and turns: a glimpse of an Officer. SHA stalks him into a dark, blasted area.

SHA
Watch the rear.

Assault rifle full-auto, SHA turns and BLASTS a Control BOX. The figure disappears. The room disappears. So does the ship... all an illusion. A BELL! Behind Sha, everyone is frozen in fighting attitudes. Officer/Referees stand before them.

OFFICER 1
One ninety three.

OFFICER 2
Casualties 6 wounded, none killed.

OFFICER 1
Your name, Cadet.

SHA
Acting Corporal Sha, Sir.

OFFICER 2
Acting Sergeant Sha, you take too many chances...But if you live, someday you may make a soldier.

Sha proudly receives the victory chevron. His men salute.

INT. LEGION PLATOON QUARTERS - LATER - The platoon is relaxed, loaded. Sha wanders from a bull session/debate, into a corner. A face watches from the shadows. The voice startles him.

LIEUTENANT
You're good. You're violent.

The Lieutenant in Black steps forward. Sha's response is measured ...learned...mechanistic...brainwashed.

SHA
Violence never settles anything.

LIEUTENANT

"Force has settled more issues than any other factor in history. Contrary opinion is wishfull thinking at it's worst. People who forget this basic truth pay for it with their lives and freedom."

SHA

Von Clausevitz?

LIEUTENANT (smiles)

Heinlein.

LATER - A SMALL, IRREGULAR ASTEROID - fractured carbonaceous chondrite. MOVE IN as it twists erratically...It is dark, mysterious, forboding...Fly up to its surface... PASS through a mountain...a camoflage PROJECTED IMAGE...Directly beneath is THE WHITE BASE - Swing around a rift. Deepspace laser drills bore blast holes...Lasers carve massive chunks of rock..As they are freed, small surface tug engines thrust them out. Magnets pull WHITEBASE into the excavation. The tugs thrust the rock formations back...WHITEBASE is neatly swallowed by the asteroid. Lasers fuse the rock fissures closed.

INT. WHITEBASE COMMAND - SCREENS SHOW rock covering them, then SWITCH to other SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS...reveaing similar views.

SARA

Well, I sure hope we're gonna like it here.

MOLLOY

We don't have much choice. At least we can build here...rearm...fight.

AMARU

Or hide.

POALO

The Ziong don't know exactly where we are, but they know the general region. If they want us, they won't be far behind.

INSERT VIEWSCREEN - WIREFRAME DISPLAY OF COLOR GRADIENTS AS THEY SCAN TOPOGRAPHY FOR MINERAL DEPOSITS.

MOLLOY

Chromolith...plenty of it.

C.G.

30

147

147A

DC

3

148

V.P. 103

SARA

We got hydrogen, so we got fuel.
Carbon..we can do something with
this.

AMARU

What about Oneil?

SARA

There comes a time when you have to
bow to the inevitable...move on,
start over. It's historic.

AMARU

It's ~~my~~ home. My Mother's
there...~~She~~...My grandfather's
buried there. ~~It's your home.~~

SARA

It's just a place. We built
it...~~people like us~~. We can build
it again..just as nice...better.

INT. ONEIL - JAPANESE HOUSE - CAMELIA weeds a vegetable patch. She's aged. She hears something. A black uniformed FIGURE steps from beneath the trees. He walks up to her, pops his helmet seal. He stops dead when he sees her reaction. She recognizes the Lieutenant...Her reaction is guarded.

LIEUTENANT

Sorry.

CAMELIA

...during the NUKEWAR...The Black
Officer meant...something.

An unpleasant duty. He offers her a charred "black box."

CAMELIA

Amaru!

LIEUTENANT

...Completed battle analysis...My
duty to inform you that there is a
reasonable chance that your son...

CAMELIA

What probability?

LIEUTENANT

...54 per cent. We matched chromosomes with Sha. It's 54 per cent probable that it's Amaru. It's 72 per cent probable that it's someone in your family. I'm very sorry...

He looks her in the eyes. She gives away nothing.

CAMELIA

I appreciate your...concern.

(pauses)

And your interest in Sha.

LIEUTENANT

He's a good boy. He'll make a fine...warrior.

She stares at him...impassive

LIEUTENANT

We're pulling out. We've detected a pulseburst. Someone beamed back a message...

(she gives away nothing)

Sha will be going with us.

CAMELIA

Goodbye.

He turns abruptly, signals. In the distance, a figure in a legion cadet uniform appears. Despite herself, she runs to him.

CAMELIA

Sha...

She grabs him, nearly falling...she notes the uniform, pauses.

CAMELIA

Sorry...I've gotten your
...uniform dirty.

She tries to brush dirt off, smears the front, making it worse. He holds her hands...

SHA

It's alright, Mother.

CAMELIA

I've been so worried...Where...
How've you been..?

SHA

I'm fine...You look well...Have you heard from Father?

CAMELIA

How would I hear?...I didn't hear from you.

SHA

I was...in training.

CAMELIA

For what?

SHA (awkwardly)

To defend the federation.

CAMELIA

What federation?

The lieutenant walks off. Sha waits. She's not making it easy.

SHA

The government...

CAMELIA

The government is gone. Destroyed by these... You'll fight for them?

SHA

I'll fight for you. For ONeil.

CAMELIA

Fight what? Fight who?

Sha, fed up with her attitude, snaps out.

SHA

What do you know, Mother. You live in this garden

CAMELIA

I know they attacked us.

SHA

In self defense. A pre-emptive strike.

CAMELIA

They've got you twisted.

SHA

What about Gundam, mother. A fighting machine like that? What was he for?

CAMELIA (defensive)

He was...new worlds...to explore, not to fight. We're colonists... just a manufacturing base.

SHA

And what do you make...Gundam. That caused the attack...it made it inevitable.... At least the Legion will protect you.

CAMELIA

From what, the Legion?

SHA

From everything!...And Oneil will make the Mobil Suits.

CAMELIA (defeated)

And you...?

SHA

I will be a Legion pilot.

CAMELIA

And you'll fight your father?

SHA

When he understands, he'll join us.

CAMELIA

What have they taught you? What have they done!

SHA

They gave me a chance. The rest I did myself.

CAMELIA

What if you meet Gundam?

SHA

I will do my duty.

CAMELIA

To whom? Your father loves you,
Sha.

SHA

He loved Amaru. Not me. He treated
me like a child. Now I'm a man. I
am a Legionaire.

CAMELIA

Yes, you are, Sha. But you're
wrong. Your father loves you. I
love you. I need you...Stay here
with me...

SHA

And do what?...

He touches Camelia's ikhabana flowers mockingly.

SHA

I have to go mother...

CAMELIA

Promise me...You won't fight
Gundam. Promise me that.

INT WHITE BASE COMMAND - AMARU, OTHERS watch SCREENS AS TWO
MODIFIED GUNDAM-TYPE MOBIL SUITS on the ASTEROID SURFACE fire
Targets

AMARU

Maybe it's his fault. Ours...for
inventing these weapons.

MOLLOY

I didn't invent any weapons...I
invented the Cybersaw...I invented
the Eltron RM-72. Other people made
them into weapons.

AMARU

You knew what they'd be used for.

MOLLOY

You can use anything for a weapon.
I can hit you with this fucking
rose bush if I want to. But don't
blame the guy that grew the roses.
He did it cause they were pretty.

BUILDING SUIT, REMY INSPECT IN

Nearby, Remy works a console. On his SCREEN, a computer modeled
head becomes more lifelike. Amaru recognises it: Tim Ray.

REMY

Got it out of Gundam's memory.

42

151
C-6.

20

3-D ENCODING
CROSS HAIRS

154

152

35

Remy starts a speech program. The head animates.

SIMULACRUM

Paolo...my old friend. I must ask your help.

PAOLO

Its ghoulish.

REMY

Yeah, but it might work.

Amaru glances at the SURFACE VIDSCREEN. Suddenly, Gundam's face fills the screen. He rotates, his movements slow, awkward.

AMARU

Hey, I fly Gundam.

PAOLO

We need him on alert. She'll fly him too.

Amaru's out the door, down the hall on the run. Paolo follows.

HANGAR DECK - THE MAG DOOR IRISES OPEN. GUNDAM MAKES HIS APPROACH. Amaru moves to the COM switch.

153

AMARU

Watch out..

GUNDAM (V.O.)

Watch out yourself.

AMARU

You're too high, bring it in slower.

2

GUNDAM COCKPIT SCREEN CLICKS ON. Sara.

SARA

Who is that?

AMARU

You!

SARA

You!

AMARU

You don't know how to run it.

SARA

I should be checking you out.

PAOLO

Sara's the best pilot we've got. You'll both be flying Gundam. Why don't you try to work together.

Amaru turns away.

EXT. ASTEROID SURFACE - LATER - GUNDAM walks awkwardly, off balance...

41

155

9

INT. WHITE BASE COMMAND - AMARU watches Gundam on a screen. . 156

AMARU (disgusted)
That's terrible.

GUNDAM (SARA V.O.)
What's so bad about it.

AMARU
You're making him walk
like a girl.

Soft laughter from the controllers.

INSIDE GUNDAM - SARA struggles. Amaru's no help. Scowling, she hits the thrusters and blasts him wobbily into space.

157

4

ABOVE THE ASTEROID SURFACE - SARA joins two GUNDAM VARIATIONS. They CLANG TOGETHER awkwardly, trying to hold formation. She tracks hologram training targets in the distance. She fires on one...It blows up.

158

48

SARA
Oh hell!...COMCON!

AMARU (V.O.)
Yes Gundam.

SARA
I hit something.

AMARU (V.O.)
That's good!

SARA
It blew up.

AMARU (V.O.)
That's what it's supposed to do.

SARA
With a bang?

AMARU (V.O.)
A bang?

SARA
A flash!...A BANG! It looked real.
I thought it was supposed to just
disappear and give you your points.

AMARU (V.O.)
Drop to the surface, Gundam.

SARA
What is it, COMCON?

AMARU
Whatever they are, they're cutting
you off. Surface NOW! Evasive
action. BATTLE STATIONS!!!

The HORN SQUAWKS through her COMNET speaker.

EXT. ASTEROID - A long shot SLAMS into the GUNDAM formation as the "TARGETS" start firing at them. The targets are real ZAKS. SARA/GUNDAM breaks, tumbles DOWNWARD, hotly pursued. Spiraling down, she hits the surface hard, in a shallow dive, burying Gundam's head and shoulders in the sand. Fire rakes ridges on either side. A shot BLOWS one of the other MOBIL SUITS apart.

INT. GUNDAM - SARA

Kim SARA *Kim*
~~Carlos!~~ They got ~~Carlos~~.
Who is it, Comcon?

INT. ASTEROID CORRIDORS - GENERAL ALARM. Amaru, Remy; running.

REMY
Pathfinders. Zak 21's by their
speed.

AMARU
What else do we have?.

REMY
Not much...Surface skimmers..that
Guncannon modification.

AMARU
Ill take it.

INT. LEGION CRUISER - GENERAL ALARM - ZAK HANGAR - Door opens.

INT. ZAK - Sha runs flight checks. The Captain appears on SCREEN

SHA (to himself)
Another drill.

CAPT
...is no drill. Repeat, this is no
drill. Battle plan R. Good Luck.
That is all.

The Lieutenant comes on the screen.

43
164 C-12

LIEUTENANT
Sha, you go with the second
element. Ruther, take his place.

SHA
What?

LIEUTENANT
These are your people.

SHA
Don't worry, I 'll do my duty.

LIEUTENANT
You'll follow orders. (pause)
...You alright, Sha?

SHA
I will be, when you let me show
what I can do.

CAPT.
Lock circuits. Prepare for launch.

LIEUTENANT
Good luck, Sha.

4 4

INT. WHITE BASE - MOBIL SUIT HANGAR...AMARU runs through the
MASSIVE FORMS. Remy follows.

165
17

AMARU
Weapons?

REMY
We were just about to test them.

AMARU climbs up to a new model - GUNCANNON - a Gundam chassis,
two enormous recoilless cannons articulated into the shoulders;
an ammunition feed bulges on the back...The massive HEAD houses
shielded antenna domes. ALARMS SQUAWK. Amaru signals for entry.
A hatch in the instep opens up. He dives through it...

3

INSIDE GUNCANNON - A PNEUMATIC TUBE whisks him up the leg into
the trunk and deposits him in the cockpit WEBBING. The systems
come alive...the SCREEN fills, COMCON comes on...Remy...

166
11

REMY (V.O.)
Stay out of the fire zones.

H

AMARU
How will I know them?

REMY (V.O.)
Visuals aren't all up. I'll try
to guide you.

AMARU
Lets go.

LINDA REEL

OUTSIDE GUNCANNON - MAGLEV lifts him right out of the bay...He
is whisked through subterranean tubes hacked out of solid rock.

167 -

INT GUNCANNON - tactical data is pumped into his computer.

168

REMY (V.O.)
Surface in eight. Watch for three
bogey 270 high....Good luck.

2

EXT. ASTEROID SURFACE - GUNCANNON clears a cave, brakes with his
forward thrusters and sets down roughly in a prone position
behind low ridge. Immediately in sight; three ZAKS in combat
formation...They break and circle...Then he sees their target.
In the distance, Gundam/Sara fights one ZAK while these three
close from the rear. as he looks, Gundam is rocked by hits.

169

C.G. 41

AMARU (V.O.)
Have you figured how to duck?

SARA
Sarcasm, right now...I don't need.

AMARU (V.O.)
Then...(YELLS) Fall on your face.

SARA
I'll remember this.

AMARU
Do it!..NOW!

She(GUNDAM) falls forward...He fires directly over her, and
blasts a ZAK to pieces. Gundam looks up.

170

SARA
What was that?

AMARU
They're behind you. I'll turn 'em.
You take 'em on the flank.

GUNCANNON fires a salvo into the middle of the formation...One is hit, the others are scattered by the blast. They spin off eccentrically, firing in all directions.

171 9

A HEAVY WEAPONS ZAK307 swings around a cliff, blasting with all systems...It's heavy bore weapons look like the asshole of hell.

172 5

GUNCANNON retro-jets back and down. Ordnance slams into his position...he disappears in blast and dust...

173 5
10

INSIDE GUNDAM - Sara watches in panic.

174 2

SARA

Amaru!

OUTSIDE GUNDAM - Drops to the surface near GUNCANNON.

175

AMARU

Too many of em.

18

SARA

Let's get out of here.

A BLAST. THEY turn and fire up, past and over each other. A good covering tactic. GUNDAM AND GUNCANNON each knock down a ZAK. Disabled, ZAK29 falls close to Gundam. He raises his weapon. Quickly GUNCANNON steps in front of GUNDAM and takes the blow...

3

INSIDE GUNCANNON - Things go bad quickly...sparks and smoke blast out. Guncannon is mortally wounded...the chest, breached...The blow has entered the cockpit...Amaru is thrown about. The ZAK fires again. Amaru tenses for the fatal blow.

176
15

OUTSIDE - GUNDAM blasts ZAK29. But GUNCANNON is hit again. His leg blasted, he swings and totters on his good one.

5 177

INSIDE GUNCANNON - AMARU moves. An ESCAPE LINE shoots out, bonding to the overhead. He grabs the line. As the MOBIL SUIT topples forward, Amaru swings out and drops through the breach.

178
15

OUTSIDE GUNCANNON - FALLING - The tiny figure swings out, and whips around on the momentum...at the apex, Amaru releases, tucks, and spins in LOW-GRAV over a ridge...as the Giant falls.

179
19

AMARU - flattens his dive. A blast from braking jets, and he's down. He crawls back up the hill, ~~SEES GUNDAM~~ standing over the fallen GUNCANNON. Sara hasn't seen him exit.

180

42

FLIGHT SUIT
MAGIC SUIT

SARA

Get out, Amaru.

AMARU

I am out. Get away from there.

SARA

Where are you?

AMARU

One eighty...One thousand meters.

SARA

Get out of the way...

GUNDAM blasts backwards..away from the battle, toward Amaru..The ZAKS close on GUNCANNON, curious at the new type. It EXPLODES in their faces. GUNDAM sprays the territory between them, creating a dust screen. A rocket hits nearby...knocking GUNDAM to his knees...He searches through the haze.

SARA

Amaru?

AMARU

Right here...Give me a hand.

GUNDAM'S ENORMOUS HAND DESCENDS. Amaru crawls onto it. It raises, the CHEST HATCH swings open, then SLAMS SHUT; Amaru safely inside.

INSIDE GUNDAM - AMARU tumbles into the rocking cockpit...The WEB harness conforms to his body. It presses him right up against Sara in a firm embrace...They are held tight to each other by the MESH as GUNDAM RISES...kind of like a fighting fuck. They struggle for fighting positions..it's pleasantly embarrassing.

OUTSIDE GUNDAM - THEIR movements move HIM erratically.

INSIDE GUNDAM - THEY can't survive like this. They have to coordinate control...

SARA

I'll take the thrusters.

AMARU

I'll take the thrusters.

SARA

I'm a better pilot than you.

AMARU

They're my thrusters.

SARA

They're your father's thrusters.

AMARU

They're mine now.

She looks at him, irritated, but in no position to argue...He is locked with his head on her chest and ZAKS are firing at them.

SARA (a beat)

Okay. They're your thrusters.
Thrust us the ~~fuck~~ out of here.

OUTSIDE GUNDAM - They blast off, just a nanosecond ahead of a ranging salvo. Gundam spins and blasts, dodging fire.

186
5

INSIDE GUNDAM - smashed together. The WEB sags with G forces. It is exciting, embarrassingly sexual...Sara coolly baits him.

187

23

SARA

That's quite a thruster.

AMARU (embarrassed)

You take the ranger, why don't you.

BLANNNGGGWWHHZZ - A NEAR MISS

SARA

The question is...who's gonna take charge here.

AMARU

It's my mobil suit.

SARA

I didn't have to pick you up.

AMARU

I didn't have to save you.

SARA

Save me ! You're the one with no mobil suit.

AMARU

I got one. This is it.

SARA

Not for long, if you leave it here.

5

OUTSIDE GUNDAM - TWO ZAKS FIRE FROM COVER. A torpedo orbits then slams into the rockface just beside ~~them~~...GUNDAM

188 5

INSIDE GUNDAM - THEY move in different directions.

189 2

OUTSIDE - GUNDAM REACTS like he's nuts. The servomotors, reading different commands flip-flop GUNDAM all over the place. Even the ZAK gunners can't follow him.

190

7

INSIDE GUNDAM - Amaru's position has shifted.

12 A1

~~AMARU~~

~~We better get oriented here.~~

She looks down at him, accusatorially.

SARA

You're enjoying this.

His head is caught between her legs upsidedown, looking up at her. He's blushing...

AMARU

How can you say ~~a thing~~ like that.

SARA

Then wipe that smile off your face.

AMARU

That's not a smile. That's pain.

SARA (sarcastic)

Why, isn't it good for you?

AMARU

~~It's not getting any better.~~
Watch on the left!

They both grab for the gun.

OUTSIDE GUNDAM - Sprays the heavens.

192

INSIDE GUNDAM - Still tangled.

193

SARA

Shit!

AMARU

That'll draw fire. Let's
get out of here.

SARA

After you.

OUTSIDE - GUNDAM is attacked.

194

INSIDE GUNDAM - Still struggling.

195

AMARU

Turn around. You wanna die
like this?

He sees something on a SCREEN, grabs the gun.

OUTSIDE - GUNDAM FIRES - AMARU'S shot scatters two ZAKS.

196

INSIDE GUNDAM -

197

SARA (impressed)

That was good!

AMARU

You giving me a hard time?

SARA

No. You're giving me one.

49
197 200-
A double meaning. Amaru's embarrassed. She sees something. 3

OUTSIDE - A SQUAD OF ZAKS DIVES on a lone GUNDAM TYPE. 198 1

INSIDE THE GUNDAM TYPE - Alva finds himself surrounded. 199 -

INSIDE A RED ZAK - Sha has the angle but hesitates. 200 1

OUTSIDE - THE GUNDAM fires at SHA/ZAK, narrowly missing. A second ZAK FLASHES IN - the GUNDAM TYPE is mortally wounded... 201 (7)

INSIDE THE RED ZAK - SHA'S indignant. 202 -

SHA
Ruther, No. He's mine.

RUTHER
No, you were his. 2

INSIDE GUNDAM - THEY SEE Alva's SUIT hit again, destroyed. 203 1

INT. ASTEROID - WHITE BASE COMMAND - ZAK SHIPS appear on SCREEN. 204
OTHER SCREENS - ZAKS ARE IN THE MAIN TUNNELS: 204 7 204

REMY
They're in the tunnels.

MOLLOY
Recall the mobil suits.

Remy hesitates, lookS to Paolo for conformation. Molloy flips on the HOLOS - a WIRE-FRAME of the asteroid. In the center, WHITEBASE; like a spider in amber. From WHITEBASE, tunnels radiate to the surface. The tunnels pass colorized areas that indicate mineral deposits .

MOLLOY (points)
Here's the hydrogen. We blast our thrusters right through there...Mag focussed...The force escapes through here. If we vent it this way, it hits the surface here.

PAOLO
And...?

MOLLOY
Blows them all up.
We got it worked out.

PAOLO
You'll blow us up.

MOLLOY
Well...there is that chance.

Paolo turns away, Molloy follows him.

MOLLOY

We can't get the ship out in time.
We're not fast enough to run, not
bad enough to fight. Those are
Legion Troopers.

PAOLO

....Recall the mobil suits.
...Ready for burn?

SURFACE - INSIDE GUNDAM - A WARNING TONE on the COMCON.

REMY (V.O.)

Recall - Gundam. Access tunnel
26...North Northwest 270 4000
meters...Hurry!

WHITEBASE - MOLLOY'S AREA - They prepare...

PAOLO

What are the odds?

MOLLOY

Insufficient data. But you gotta do
it on this rotation. In..uh...
twenty seven seconds

PAOLO (to Remy)

Mobil suits in?

REMY

We've lost contact.

PAOLO

Where were they? (to Molloy) If we
miss this one?

MOLLOY

You can forget it.

PAOLO

...Sound general alarm.

SURFACE - GUNDAM, at TUNNEL ENTRANCE. It's blocked by ZAKS. 7 207

INT. GUNDAM - THEY try to contact WHITEBASE, but it's too late. 4 208

INT. WHITEBASE - They are tense, resigned. 209

MOLLOY
Can't wait! Now! 7

INT. TUNNEL - A BLAST takes out a mass of ZAKS. the ROCK heats red-hot, ~~starts to melt~~. 210

RED GLOW FRAG.

SURFACE - THE SAME BLAST blows melted ZAKS through the surface. GUNDAM is thrown back. He grabs for a handhold, but the asteroid is coming apart. The ground ~~fractures~~. A MASSIVE PIECE blows away capturing GUNDAM and a ZAK in its vortex. The ZAK FLEET, caught in the BLAST, turns away. The TWO MOBIL SUITS start to ablate away in the slip-stream as the asteroid fragment enters the atmosphere...Like a ship going down, the fragment traps THEM in it's fiery wake. 211 A

ROTATING, SUITS OFF, SUCTION. ALONG. 212

INSIDE GUNDAM - The system overloads, the INT. grows hot. Both SUITS start to melt and break up...ONE CHANCE LEFT...AMARU queries the computer, Sara finds the solution. 10 213

OUTSIDE - GUNDAM fires all his rockets and thrusters at once, he blasts up and away from the Comet...and free. The burning ZAK lunges as Gundam goes by. It clamps on to Gundam's shoulder. Their combined mass drags them toward the surface of the planet. They are caught, the doomed ZAK taking Gundam down with it. 214

THE FRAGMENT PLUNGES INTO THE OCEAN..CREATING A TIDAL WAVE. 6 215

A TRAILING ZAK FORMATION - GLOWING in the friction, pulls up.

ZAK (V.O.)
Pull back. Recall. Let him go. 3

INT. RED ZAK - SHA watches the struggle. 6216

SHA
Let him go, Nora... Pull out. 217

IN THE STRATOSPHERE - GUNDAM. STRUGGLING with the ZAK'S fused death grip....then ZAK starts to melt, a judo throw and the Zak is tossed away spining and flaming like a roman candle.. 1

INSIDE THE RED ZAK - SHA watches Nora die. J.P. 5 219

SHA
Nora...no! 1

EXT. ZAK - He empties his MAR at Gundam, but he's out of range.

GUNDAM holds his SHIELD in front of him, like a surf board...His chest thrusters blast straight at the shield, creating a vortex of cooler air...Hands fused to the shield by the heat, he ducks his body behind it, for protection...

IN THE SKY - the COMETS are melting ZAK. One blooms into an exploding skyrocket...The BLAST hits GUNDAM throwing him off, then he corrects. He comes scorching and spiraling down. THE MIDSECTION OF A ZAK comes spinning by. Gundam grabs it and holds it in front as additional shielding.

AROUND THE CURVE OF THE ISLAND PLANET - GUNDAM hits the side of a mountain, gains control with a blast from his retro-rockets, uses his shield like a drag chute...hits a ridge, then trees. The shield rips away. He hits the surface of the water, skimming like a flat stone...ricochets off a cliff, through a stand of bamboo trees, across a beach and finally comes to rest smoking and popping and half sunk in a lagoon.

INSIDE GUNDAM - Sara and Amaru lie tangled and unconscious in the dark.

EXT. LAGOON - NEXT MORNING - The rising sun silhouettes Gundam half submerged in the murk. He's scorched and dinged, hands melted off at the elbow. ZAK wreckage lies nearby.

INSIDE GUNDAM - Sara wakes. She searches the wrecked cockpit: No Amaru. She tries to power up Gundam. No luck, just emergency lights. Half spooked, she exits the cockpit.

INSIDE BODY CAVITIES - She crawls through access tunnels upward to the head...She finds an emergency hatch.

OUTSIDE GUNDAM - She emerges into the sunlight. Across the lagoon, a small purplish island...strange, lush vegetation.

AMARU (V.O.)

Maybe they'll never find us.

She looks around. Amaru sits above, legs swinging over the water, fishing. She climbs up to him.

SARA

What would we do?

AMARU

I guess we'd just have to learn to live with each other.

SARA (pauses)

Don't worry. They'll find us.

(sees line in the water)

What are you doing?

AMARU

~~I'm~~ catching a fish.

SARA

That's an awful positive statement.

AMARU

I'm feeling kind of positive this morning.

SARA

Don't worry, It'll go away.

He turns away.

AMARU

Would staying here be all that bad?

SARA

We can't stay here ~~like this~~.
We're not exactly...inconspicuous.

AMARU

Maybe it's a big planet.

SARA

It's not that big.
(long pause)
What're you gonna do if
you do catch a fish.

AMARU

I'm gonna eat it.

SARA

That's dangerous.

AMARU (deadpan)

What's danger to a man like me?

He slips, damn near falls off and finally, breaks her up. He smiles, pulls up the line. A round SCORCHED OBJECT breaks the surface attached to his magnetic grapple.

LATER - BEACH - Beside Amaru, cooking a fish, is Sara. They are in a wrecked LEG BAND from Gundam...half awash in a lagoon... Gundam's face looms out of the water in the distance, Amaru fiddles with the ROUND OBJECT he fished from the lagoon - A ZAK FLIGHT RECORDER. He moves probes and gets visuals on a monitor.

SARA

I thought those things
self-destructed.

AMARU

Father taught me how to get around
that. He helped design them...

229
39

The MONITOR shows battle scenes from a ZAK'S POV. 230

SARA

What is it?

AMARU

An attack. Against regulations,
but sometimes soldiers keep the
memories...souvenirs.

Suddenly, a familiar scene... O'Neil, under attack. Amaru runs it back. A figure stands near a breach in a tunnel as a rocket destroys it. Amaru, recognises his father. Upset, he runs it back and forth until Sara clicks it off. 5

THE LAGOON - DUSK - THEY swim in the surf. Amaru's depressed. A phosphorescent glow runs down Sara's body like molten mercury. 231

SARA

What beautiful water. 33

AMARU

It's not the water, it's tiny
creatures...billions of them.

SARA

Beautiful...just for us.

AMARU

They glow cause they're
decomposing. ~~They're all dead~~

~~SARA~~

~~Amaru don't...~~

AMARU

Our crash...~~I~~ raised the
temperature...We killed them.
~~We sure tore up this world...~~

SARA

~~It~~ couldn't be helped.

AMARU

I guess not. ~~It's what we do best.~~

He wades toward the beach. She catches him at the water's edge.

LAGOON - DUSK - A BRILLIANT SUNSET - Amaru climbs out of GUNDAM, on his back, supplies in a pack. Sara follows. He sends the pack down a suspended wire to the island. They clamp on and slide down behind it. Underwater, A SHAPE swings toward them. 232

SARA

UHM...do you suppose this planet
has um...big fish. A
130
B

The SHAPE grows, moving faster. THEY release their brakes, ZIP down the wire. The wire dips to within inches of the rising tide. They surf through on their stomachs throwing phosphorescent wakes. The SHAPE rushes up on THEM, then pulls alongside. Amaru reaches for his sidearm. The shape swings at him, then swerves...a HOLOFACE appears...Remy. 233

REMY

What are you doing, Amaru.

AMARU

What are you doing.

REMY

There's a war on..This is no time for fooling around...

Amaru takes a header into the surf. Sara zips right through and alights gracefully on the sand. The SEA CRAWLER pulls up on the beach. Monstrously powerful, it pulls into the harboring trees. A blower in the back erases its track as it goes...Amaru wades up on the beach and walks in behind it. He bangs on the hatch. 234

AMARU

How'd you find us.

Remy pops out. He turns to Gundam, glowing in the twilight.

REMY

Are you out of your mind...

Amaru looks at Sara..something lost.

AMARU

Yeah...guess I am.

Remy looks at the both of them...at the lagoon...He understands.

REMY

Yeah...Well...I think it's time to go.

SARA

Just a few hours. Just the night.

Remy looks out at GUNDAM, he understands, but he's got to take them back. He looks at the spooks and chaff effects in the night sky

REMY

A few hours...that'll die down.
We've got to be under cover...
You could have camouflaged it. 15

MINIATURE

A 3 56

EXT. BEACH - The SEA CRAWLER breaks into sections. Two sections re-conform themselves into REPAIR WALDOS. They crawl into water.

35
15

LAGOON - NIGHT - GUNDAM is dragged underwater from below.

13

236

INT. SEA CRAWLER COCKPIT - SCREENS show Gundam floating beneath the surface. WALDOS attach rocket pods to him. Another SCREEN shows main part of SEA CRAWLER re-conforming itself into a SHUTTLE CRAFT. Other SCREENS show a teleconference with the WHITEBASE. Amaru, Remy and Sara are in discussion with them.

V.P.

237

A
B
C

GUNDAM SUSPENDED

AMARU
And the Legion?

REMY
No sign. Maybe they went for reinforcements.

MOLLOY
Those Zakers, they made a big mistake.

AMARU
They beat the hell out of us.

MOLLOY
Right.

They look at him like he's nuts.

The classic mistake of the victors. They haven't changed tactics, they haven't modified their machines. We analysed the last fight. They lost 27, we only lost four.

AMARU
They were the only four we had.

MOLLOY
Yes...that is a problem... But the modifications work. If we had real fighters in the suits...

SARA
We don't have any suits.

°Molloy's eyes light up in excitement. He hits a program. A holographic wire frame graphic fills the room. He explains:

MOLLOY

We have the Mobil Suit Hangar. We could make four or five modified suits out of parts...

PAOLO

Who's gonna run them.

AMARU

We'll get fighters.

PAOLO

Where?

SARA

You're gonna get mercenaries to go against the ZAKS, they'd have to be idiots...

PAOLO

What are we gonna pay them with?

SARA

They gotta live to spend it...How you gonna convince them we can win.

AMARU

Don t worry.

REMY

How you gonna do it?

AMARU

I don't know.

REMY

Oh good. For a minute I was afraid you might have some stupid plan.

STARTING UNDERWATER

EXT. LAGOON - MORNING - GUNDAM, rocket pods attached, blasts out of the lagoon, straight up through the sky, out of sight.

238 A

INT. GUNDAM - Remy salutes into the VIDSCREEN.

7 B-2

INT. SEA CRAWLER/SHUTTLE CRAFT. - Amaru and Sara wave back.

2 239

EXT. SEA FLOOR - SEA CRAWLER/SHUTTLE CRAFT - Blast through the surface and streaks up through the sky in a different direction.

2 240



A STRANGE SYSTEM. A RING OF MOONS AROUND A GLOWING PLANET. SOME OF THE MOONS ARE NATURAL, SOME LOOK MAN-MADE, ONE IS BINARY.

THE SHUTTLE CRAFT APPROACHES ONE OF THE BINARY MOONS, NIGHTSIDE

INT. SHUTTLE - SARA AND AMARU

AMARU

Good evening Nightside. YXR request docking lock clearance.

CONTROL (V.O.)

Cleared and locked. We have control.

SARA

Kind of an ominous ring to that.

NIGHTSIDE - THE NORTH POLAR SKYHOOK TERMINAL. The SHUTTLE enters the zone. A grid pattern shows the landing zone.

INT. SHUTTLE - Amaru punches in code. It flashes on the SCREEN.

SARA

A phoney reg number?

AMARU

You want them to know where we're really from?

SARA

They can check that.

AMARU

Don't give them a reason to.

EXT. SHUTTLE - The ship docks with a TUBULAR GANGWAY radiating from the port like spiderlegs.

INT. SPACEPORT - Amaru and Sara exit the TUBE, arm in arm.

SARA (nervous)

What exactly is your plan?

AMARU

This is a nasty place. Maybe it's better you don't know.

They pass through the OmniDetector; their body-scans viewed by beady-eyed GUARDS. They start to enter separate customs booths.

SARA

Maybe it's better I turn the ship around. This is my skin too. If I'm gonna lose it, I'd rather lose it near home.

AMARU

You wouldn't....

(She would)

All right. Ok...Ok. I got a plan.

CUSTOMS BOOTH. Black...nothing visible except the SEAL of NIGHTSIDE...and surveillance cameras pointing at Amaru.

249 -

VOICE

Is your identity implant in order?

AMARU

Yes.

VOICE

Purpose of visit?

AMARU

Fun.

A long pause. Then the lights go on. The magnetic door releases.

VOICE

Have a nice time.

He exits. Sara is waiting for him.

SARA

Well?...

(He looks blank)

The plan?

AMARU

Find the best fighters we can.

Get them to join us.

10

SKYHOOK POD - They enter. It drops through the floors of the SPACEPORT, then out the bottom...speeding to the surface.

28

250

SARA

That's it, (a blank stare from Amaru) that's your plan?

AMARU

That's it.

SARA
It's not much.

AMARU
Well, what do you have?

SARA
That's different. I didn't tell
everybody I had a plan.

AMARU
Nobody told you to volunteer.

SARA
I thought you might know what
you're doing. I must have been out
of my mind.

AMARU
If it's so easy to come up with a
plan, you come up with one.

REBUILDING POOL

EXT. SKYHOOK - THEY DROP THROUGH CANOPY encircling the surface. 15 251
One side of the Moon constantly faces the Methane planet, the
other side, NIGHTSIDE, the land of casinos and nightlife, is
forever dark...eclipsed by its twin. 1

EXT. POD - They drop into SPEGAS, the capital city. Everywhere 13 252
there are signs advertising the ZIONG CORPORATION and the
SPACER'S PENSION FUND...Tomorrow Elvis opens at the Sands... 1

SPEGAS - LATER - A BIZARRE BAZAAR - ARMS MARKET. DESIGNERS,
DISCOUNT SHOPS, CORPORATE SALES OFFICES. Amaru and Sara wander 25 253
through looking at various exotic weapons...and at the MERCS
hanging around. Fights break out. Men are killed. Short soft
ones tear apart bigger ones...deadly surprises, nobody's safe.
Various weapons are used...It's a quick education in lethality. 2

A DRUG BAR - LATER - Amaru and Sara sit with an OLD VETERAN. 38 254

AMARU
500,000 guras.

OLD VET
(looks at Sara)
500,000...and the girl.

AMARU
Can't do that.

OLD VET
Can you?
(shakes her head no)
Then my answer is no. You've got to
want it more than that.

He gets up, adjusts his pride....looks down at them, distantly.

AMARU
Can you help us at all?

OLD VET
Yeah, Go home. You're not
up to this.

AMARU
We can't...

OLD VET
Then... to be safe...
Shoot me in the back.

He turns and walks out of the room.

ELEVATED HIGHWAY. AMARU AND SARA IN BACK OF A GRAV-LEV LIMO
pull up at a NIGHTCLUB hung high on a sheer cliff. 255

INT. NIGHTCLUB - THE WALL - They are whisked through the
entrance by the Maitre'd, seated cliffside. A cere-jazzband is
suspended over the void...The LIGHTS of NIGHTSIDE spark below. 256

SARA
What are we doing here?...

AMARU
I need a drink.

SARA
...Besides spending every last
credit we have....

The waiter's arrival interrupts.

AMARU
Two spezoids...no ice.
(waiter departs)
My parents used to come here.

SARA
What's a spezoid? If this is some..

AMARU
(leans in to quiet her)
If you're gonna be a secret agent,
you got to learn to relax.

The drinks come. She holds the globular glass up. The liquid
boils off into a gas.

SARA
What the hell is a spezoid?

AMARU
No idea. I heard the name
on the way in.
(notices people staring)
They drank it. Hasn't hurt them.

She looks around. Some of the weirdest people you've ever seen.

SARA
Hasn't helped.

The BAND heats up. Couples, Triples get up to dance... ~~Sara~~ ^{AMARU} pulls ~~Amaru~~ up. They step off into a magnetic field out over SPACE.

AMARU
This is nice. We ought to do this more often.

SARA
I hope once is enough...

BANDSTAND - A beautiful woman, Zoe, plays a keyboard instrument. A gold wire-mesh HEADGEAR - inset with jewel-like electrodes - transmits visual tones and imagery onto a HOLOGRAM that projects over the dance floor. 257

AMARU - The drug starts to affect his vision. Colors GLOW. He's caught up in the visual experience. He glances at Sara. She is dancing with abandon, drifts closer to the BANDSTAND, out over the chasm. Amaru looks down nervously. 258

He studies ZOE. She's beautiful. She glances in HIS direction. Strange eyes - Transparent irises, as if you are looking through to interior visions. Her glance flips away...to Sara. SARA moves close to the bandstand. He sees A STRANGE CONTACT made between the two women. Then Sara turns back and dances him away. 259

THEIR TABLE. The song ends, they sit. A waiter brings another, weirder drink. He indicates that Zoe sent it. 260

AMARU
You know her? 119

SARA
I don't think so.

She looks at Zoe. Zoe nods toward a side table. On it, another gold HEADGEAR. Sara nods yes and a waiter brings it to her. The music starts. Sara puts the HEADGEAR on. She's up. She pulls Amaru with her. The images take off - dynamic forms - a BATTLE. The AURAL-VISUAL duet flips back and forth - DUELING BRAINCCELLS - both women intent. Amaru notices pastoral images - ONEIL. He looks at Sara. Sara shakes her head no, "It's not me." She looks at ZOE. Suddenly, a sub-aural voice in her brain. 261

ZOE (V.O.)
Is it you?
(Sara hesitates)
Is it you? Yes or no...I pick up these things...I don't know where it's from. Maybe from ONEIL.

201
copy

SARA
Will you help us?

ZOE (V.O.)
What can I do?

SARA
Is it real, what I picked
up from you...the battle?

ZOE (V.O.)
(pause)...Oh, that.

SARA
Will you help us?...

20

INT/EXT LIMO - CLUB - LATER - They exit CLUB, get in limo.

262

SARA
Stengle Park.

Surprised, Amaru turns to her. The AUTOPILOT processes the
order, takes off fast on the Grand Corniche over Nightside.

AMARU
That battle...?

SARA
Cygni Two. She was there.
She ran a Waldo.

AMARU
On which side.

Sara smiles wickedly.

SARA
She fought with the legion.

AMARU
We're dead.

She takes out a small lipstick, seems at ease.

SARA
Not yet. She gave us a
name...McNab.

The last word, said directly and clearly into the lipstick. It
beeps in acknowledgement. She applies it to her lips.

5

DAYSIDE - LATER - STENGEL PARK.- LOW-GRAV CONTACT SPORTS.

203

~~AMARU~~ SARA

Try to act like your having fun.

He gives an usher his ticket.

USHER (startled)

It's top of the ninth.

135

AN OPEN STADIUM - the CROWD is on their feet...Some OFF their feet in the lessened gravity, beneath a seamless curve of glass. The game is THREE-DIMENSIONAL BASEBALL. The fielders maintain height with short bursts on their JET SUITS. Should a player expend too much fuel, he may run out...like fouling out in basketball. Action is covered by a wall of monitors including CU shots of faces from INT. HELMET CAMERAS. Amaru sweeps through, down the aisle, pulling Sara behind him. They sit next to distinguished older man, MCNAB.

204

~~SARA~~ AMARU

Not only a ballgame. But one that's over.

McNab notices ~~SARA~~ her. She smiles at him. He smiles back, amused.

~~AMARU~~ SARA

It's the Asteroids!

~~SARA~~ AMARU

I don't care if it's the Franco-Prussians.

Amaru hands her a SPACEDOG oozing mustard. OVER THE P. A., the announcer's running commentary:

SCULLY (V.O.)

...last home game. Then a road swing; Cerberus Bears, Altos Five, those hot Procyon Tigers...

THE BATTER swings...the ball is lined through the middle. It makes strange shrieking sounds and skips oddly, accelerating, decelerating...programmed. The runner rounds first. The crowd's on it's feet. Amaru jumps up, knocks the SPACEDOG out of her hand onto McNab's lab. She's horrified.

205

SARA

I'm sorry.

McNAB

I'm not.

SARA
It'll come off.

MCNAB
No harm at all.

THE FIELDER dives at the ball...He's up. The throw...a long arc drops it right at second but the runner's under the tag. *264*

SCULLY (V.O.)
So...tying run on. Go-ahead run comes to the plate.

SARA
(wiping mustard from McNab)
I always depend on the kindness of strangers....

MCNAB
Ah...Tennessee Williams...
I trust...no coincidence?

SARA (smiles)
No.

SCULLY (V.O.)
Milt Toberski. Last time up, he tagged Lee for a three run homer.

MCNAB (ironic)
So...it's not...my charm.

SARA
Your reputation.

MCNAB
...as...

SARA
An historian.

BATTER'S BOX - A monster comes to the plate. His uniform number is 666. CLOSE UP on his face. Ugly. *267*

SCULLY (V.O.)
He's the only one I know can chew tobacco in a Space suit. Some say he just swallows the stuff. I mean this guy is tough.

CLOSE UP - THE PITCHER - LEE - "THE SPACEMAN" - A tall wacko! *268*

SCULLY (V.O.)
So...it's veteran against veteran.
Brain verses brawn.

60 210
THE PITCHER'S GLOVE - The BALL, a small machined orb...a computer. like a rubic's cube with vents and nozzles...LEE twists it into a program. He checks the guy on second. Then the pitch...It dives and darts toward the plate, brushes the corner. Toberski watches placidly, then swings from the toes. WHOONNG! The ball rockets out of the park, smashed foul.

SCULLY (V.O.)

I think that one reached escape velocity. Ol Roger Manx hit one off here back '37. The Nearside Patrol reported it orbiting Ceros but that's just a story...Them being Dodger fans and all.

Sara sees another spot of mustard, wipes it off. McNab notices her WRISTSCREEN. It flashes an image of O'Neil. He reacts. 210

SCULLY (V.O.)

Toberski himself sent one into low orbit just last year...Came back in three days. Just about knocked a groundskeeper cold.. least that's the story...

McNab leans in to her.

MCNAB

What exactly are you offering?

SARA

Hopeless fight. Impossible odds.

MCNAB

(very slightly amused)
 Could we win?

SARA

That important to you?

MCNAB

It would be nice.
 Who's it against.

SARA

The Zions.

MCNAB

All the Zions?

She gives it her biggest smile.

MOUND - The pitcher throws again...A long curving arc. 1/2 211

SCULLY (V.O.)
The ephus pitch...

It drops on the plate and sits there...

212

SCULLY (V.O.)
Better not try that one again, soon.
He parked one of those in the
fourth...Lee is playing with fire.

He winds up, he throws. Sizzlwhack! Fastball, high and tight.

213

SEATS - McNab studies THEM, thoughtfully.

20 214

MCNAB
You're that renegade band.

AMARU
We're patriots...

MCNAB
Ahhh...That's one concept
I'm not too clear on.

SARA
They took our land.

MCNAB
It happens...tell me,
how is Tim Ray?

SARA
He's been better.

MCNAB
But he leads the fight?

SARA
Yes, he does that.

Unexpectedly, she leans over and plants a kiss on his cheek.

36

MENS LOUNGE - LATER - McNab steps into a private cubicle. He washes his hands. Checks out the room. He looks at himself in the mirror...knowingly. He notices her lipstick smudge, wipes it off...carefully...passes the cloth over his watch...a slight BEEP tells him it's true. He lifts the microdot with a delicate fingernail...pulls open his contact lens, deposits the microdot inside.

23 215

MCNAB'S POV. A message is displayed in his vision...The image of Tim Ray; one of Molloy's simulations....Tim starts to talk.

216

TIM RAY
McNab...my old friend...

3

104⁶⁸

SEATS - MCNAB returns. Sara and Amaru look at him expectantly. 277

SCULLY (V.O.)
Anyway, 2 and 2...And the pitch.

MCNAB (to Sara)
What if I'm with the police?

SARA
It would kill me...Your
last broken heart.

MCNAB
Last? I'm not that old.

SARA
You're alone.

MCNAB
I prefer it that way.

SARA
Not true.

He turns away.

PITCHER'S MOUND - LEE - Studies the batter, programs the ball. 278

SCULLY (V.O.)
Hard to tell who's toying with
who...the 3 and 2 pitch... 7

THE SCREWBALL - Toberski steps in and murders it. It rockets up over the field. At the crack of the bat, the outfielders turn their backs and BLAST. The ball carries up, over the surface and into an asteroid shower. It rattles around like a pinball... Toberski pounds around the bases..The ground shakes. 279

SCULLY (V.O.)
One runner home. Here comes Mani.

OUTFIELD. The FIELDER, among the asteroids. He plays the carom, intersects the ball, spins and fires to the infield. The crowd goes wild. The cutoff man throws it to third. It takes a bad hop, eats up third base. TOBERSKI slides in hard, overruns the bag. The fielder goes flying.. A HAND snags the ball, LEE, backing up third. He dives for the bag. He tags. 280

UMP
Out of there.

The dust settles. LEE'S teammates lift him to his feet and propel him out of there. 281

THE CROWD goes wild...except for Amaru, Sara and McNab. 282

SARA
We need your help desperately.

MCNAB
And my reward?

SARA
Just that. 13

BALLPARK - LATER - Deserted except for AMARU, MCNAB AND SARA. 283

BOWELS OF THE BALLPARK - LATER - MCNAB leads AMARU and SARA through the press door, into the LOCKER ROOM. Judges are taking readings off the suits before calling the game official. SE 284

SARA (to McNab)
Who are we interested in?

McNab
Who do you think?

SARA (hesitates)
The winner?!
(McNab laughs)
What's so funny?

AMARU
We can't afford the winner.

SARA
Oh! Great!

Lee walks through with reporters. Sara looks to him, to McNab.

SARA
I thought you said "the loser".

MCNAB
I did. Come on, lets eat.

He leads her to the training table and they stuff themselves like veteran reporters.

TRAINING ROOM - LATER - Lee, in a whirlpool. THEY approach him. 285

AMARU
Nice tag.

Lee looks up...in his own world.

LEE
Lousy pitch.

AMARU
I saw you in Cerberon Five.
I saw your no-hitter.

LEE
Long time ago.

AMARU
My father took me.

Sara nudges him. Lee doesn't want to be told that.

AMARU
He said you're the greatest. Ever.

LEE
That's a long time. Listen, McNab,
they're not supposed to be in here.

AMARU
We have to...

LEE
Nobody has to be here. Not even me.

AMARU
I got a deal for you.

LEE (laughs)
You that kid who's daddy owns
the Cowboys.

AMARU
I'm not from this league...

LEE
Yeah. Guess not.

He turns away.

MCNAB
You still got your sinker.

LEE

Oh, I got it, just doesn't
sink anymore.

MCNAB

It's good for what we need.

LEE

What do you need?

AMARU

We need you.

LEE (indignant)

What are you doing with
these kids, McNab?

McNAB

Looking for that fastball again.

Lee studies them curiously, then turns away.

LEE

I'm in a playoff, here.

SARA

If...it doesn't work out...
could we make you an offer.

LEE starts to laugh, then stops. He looks down at Sara's wrist.

WRISTSCREEN - diagrams of a MOBIL SUIT shoulder...A sequence
showing articulation as it throws missiles. Lee is intrigued.

LEE

If it doesn't work out. I might
be looking for something.

EXT. POV MOVING FORWARD - A WEIRD AND DEADLY LANDSCAPE. Unreal, twisted, jungly growths. Terrifying SOUNDS. A SCREAM - SOMETHING comes flitting in at us. WHAM - It's blown into vapor inches away... Then another, from the side. It's BLASTED away.

A HUMMINGBIRD THRUDDING FROM BEHIND.. Twist and drop..Three of them, realclose. Two are BLASTED, One hits the ground beside us, we roll away...it WHIRRS in at us, A BLAST...it is vapor and quivering jelly.

(HUMANOID) FIG. IN SUIT

286

29

287

288

THIS IS A GAME
NIGHTMARE
3.6. 72

HE gets up, holsters HIS NEEDLEGUNS. HIS eyes scan the area, a practiced search...but they always come back to us. We pull back through the plants, hiding. He moves forward in a combat crouch.

SIXTEEN swirl at him...from all directions...His hands are a blur...The guns swat them from the air with surgical precision. His movements are balanced, economical...but that's not what's scary. What's scary is that he never stops moving forward...even in battle, his eyes flick toward us. HE knows where we are.

GUNFIGHTER'S FACE - Hard and impassive...a killer. The JUNGLY SOUNDS die to ominous silence.

FAR SIDE OF CLEARING - His enemy steps forward...A MONSTROUS CREATURE - like a giant Legion Trooper, but with six arms. In each, a deadly weapon...STUNBATS, SLAMMERS, RAZERWHIRLS, VIPERS.

THE GUNFIGHTER holsters his guns. The TROOPER lowers his arms. They eye each other..waiting. It comes, lightning fast. The creature's arms whirl. Every weapon, launched at once, SCREAMS at the Gunfighter. His guns are out. He knocks down four...the fifth BLURRS IN from under and hits him hard, He is thrown back as his guns find his opponent. The TROOPER BLOWS APART as the sixth SLAMS into GUNFIGHTER'S face and things go BLACK.

A ROAR - A GAMEPARLOR - NIGHTSIDE. Amaru and Sara step forward though the crowd, eyes on the Gunfighter, VON.

THE GUNFIGHTER releases from a VIDCOUCH...He stands, takes a drink from an ENHANCED BLOND. He looks at his opponent.

ANOTHER VIDCOUCH - The LEGION SERGEANT gets up, a tough veteran. His men congratulate him. One trooper crosses to the Gunfighter.

TROOPER

Well?

VON

Well what?

TROOPER

Kremen won.

The GUNFIGHTER turns away. The TROOPER, frustrated turns to the crowd. He spots the PARLORCONTROLLER. He pushes through to him. The CONTROLLER works his machines, ignores him.

TROOPER

Tell him. Call it!

The crowd grows impatient. The CONTROLLER snaps out, worried..

JERIS

Can't call it. Too close to call.

The SERGEANT moves toward him...The crowd presses in.

SERGEANT
That's not possible.

JERIS
Must be a malfunction.
It won't call it.

SERGEANT
Doesn't matter. He knows I won.

All eyes on the Gunfighter. Impassively, he turns away.

TROOPER 2
Come on, Jeris, Pay up. He won.

JERIS
Malfunction...All bets are off.

The SERGEANT moves on the GUNFIGHTER.

SERGEANT
Tell them. Tell them I won.

VON turns away. A murmur goes up in the crowd...Theres going to be trouble...and excitement...Some start taking new bets.

300

SERGEANT
Wait a minute. You can't do that.
You can't walk away.

JERIS
Walk away...walk away now.

The gunfighter looks at him...He gathers his things. Incensed, one of the soldiers turns to the crowd.

TROOPER
He must have done it. These things don't malfunction. That's how he wins it. He must have cheated.

VON freezes. Jeris crosses and pleads with him.

JERIS
I didn't hear that. These are Legion troopers. You didn't hear it.

VON puts his things down.

VON
I heard it.

JERIS

But you don't have to do anything.
They're fractured... They'll pass
out in a while... Please.

The SERGEANT moves up on him...The crowd presses in.

VON

Don't see as I have a choice.

SERGEANT

You can tell them I won.

VON

I can't do that.

SERGEANT

Then we must link them.

JERIS (to Von)

No. They'll close me down.
He's in the Goddamn Legion.
If you win, you lose.

VON ignores him...He crosses to the SERGEANT resigned.

VON

You know who I am.

SERGEANT

Doesn't matter. I'm better.

JERIS (to Sergeant)

No trouble. Here's your money..
He's crazy. We don't want police.

SERGEANT

You cheated or you wouldn't be
afraid to play it for real.

Von turns, gets into the COUCH, plugs in. The SERGEANT moves through his men to his VIDCOUCH. The crowd gathers in excitement, AMARU and SARA in the front. Bets exchanged quickly. Von nods Jeris to the Controls.

VON

How many links?

SERGEANT

All of them.

The Sergeant brings UP his equipment.

75
303
CONT

JERIS
All! No, you'll kill him.

SERGEANT
He can withdraw.

Von smiles slightly, to himself. He nods to Jeris.

VON
Make the connections.

SERGEANT
Your choice of weapon.

VON
And yours of setting.

32

LIMBO CEREBRAL... Like a Samaurai Valhalla...Two SAMURAI with
SWORDS drift toward each other, floating, rotating slightly.
Closer together...edging for position...for THE MOMENT...

17 304

When it comes, it's blindingly fast. A heartbeat, the last. The
Sergeant's blade sweeps down, but Von, faster, steps inside.

305

SERGEANT'S POV - Von's blade sweeps down and hits us.
The SCREAM is cut off as he is opened from Head to Groin.

306

GAMEPARLOR - A crush of LEGION TROOPERS pulls the Sergeant from
the VIDCOUCH. His face is frozen in horror from the MOMENT...His
eyes unfocussed...his brain is fried. His head smokes. The
TROOPER'S voices are urgent and angry.

307

Jeris pulls Von from his COUCH, pushes him quickly into the
crowd...Winners, their faces flush with victory, thrust money at
him...He ignores them, still in the BATTLE. Jeris pushes him out
the back door as the cry goes up...for blood; for revenge.

308

JERIS
Go. Quickly. Don't look back. Go.

21

EXT BACKSTREET - NIGHT - Amaru and Sara slip out behind Von.
Then they're on the street, disoriented. A SCREECH. Von fades
into the shadows leaving Amaru and Sara exposed. A CRUISER pulls
up, the hatch swings open.

20 309

A VOICE
Quick, get in.

VON (hesitates)
Who is it?

VOICE

A friend.

VON

Somehow, I doubt that.

Behind him, there is a struggle at the door.

VOICE

You want to argue?

The door behind him bursts open; uniforms; drawn guns. Von hops in, followed by Amaru and Sara. The Cruiser roars away.

INT CRUISER - McNab drives, Von turns to him.

McNAB

One more world you're though with.

VON

Why should I leave, I like it here.

SARA

I can think of two or three reasons.

The last two or three pursuers fall behind as McNab floors it.

VON (sarcastic)

It's wonderful. I love scratching a living out of Viddie Parlors.

AMARU

How would you like a lot of money.

VON

Those legion boys are all pumped up. I've seen the signs before. It would have to be an awful lot of money...What are you doing here, Lou?

McNAB

Everybody's got to be somewhere.

Von turns to the others.

VON

I know who you are. If I were you, whatever you plan to do, I'd do it.

SARA

Will you help us?

310

VON
I'd have to be crazy.

SARA (smiles)
Yeah.

VON
Let me out here. Always nice seeing
you, Lou. Thanks for the lift.

They let him off. Sara climbs up to McNab. He grins at her.

McNAB (pause)
That's four. Now, we'll need a
track man.

AMARU
You have someone in mind?

McNAB
There's a war winding down
on Ariel.

ALLEN PLANTS

EXT. DAWN - ARIEL - THE SHUTTLE - Sets down on a CRYSTAL
SURFACE, slides undercover of some trees.

MCNAB, AMARU - leave the ship and walk to a ridge. They take
cover in the tall crystal grasses and move up the slope.

THEIR POV - Beautiful rolling hills, fields of crystal grasses,
cut by a shallow river. It looks like the Ukraine. The wind
ripples the grasses, sets them TINKLING. The moving waves
refract sunlight into startling shades. A WARNING SENSOR
CHATTERS. MCNAB turns his binoculars. Movement, hull down in the
wheat, then five SQUAT SHAPES crest the ridge and ripple like
rocket moles down the far slope. They zig zag, but the general
angle of advance, is straight at MCNAB.

AMARU
Hope you're right about this.

MCNAB
We'll know soon enough.

MCNAB walks into the open. The TANKS race down the slope toward
them. One TANK fires off a REMOTELY PILOTED VEHICLE (RPV). It
orbits above their heads relaying info back to the tanks. It's
attention is drawn by movement from the SHUTTLE. It buzzes
angrily above the trees.

The tanks breast the near slope at speed, dodging, obviously
veterans... They peel off and approach from three sides, their
blurred tracks send up roostertails of sparkling crystal.
The LEADER slows, stops in front of them, its sensors twitching
like some massive lethal insect. MCNAB steps forward.

MCNAB
How you doin, kid?

A SILENCE...broken by a METALLIC VOICE from the tank.

MCCOON (V.O.)
Fine, Lou. And you.

He bangs the tank with his fist, affectionately.

MCNAB
You're looking good.

MCCOON
You're looking pretty good yourself
...for a man standing in the open
on a killing ground.

THE HIGH WHISTLE OF SOME HEAVY ORDNANCE.

MCCOON
What're ya doin' here?

MCNAB
Looking for excitement.

A SHELL slams into the hillside. Crystal shards blow high into the air. The other tanks take off; evasion maneuvers. McCoon's tank stays put. Broken crystals rain and crash off it. 316

MCCOON
Well...You found it.

Amaru and Lou turn their backs to the falling crystals.

MCCOON
Better get out of the rain.

A hatch pops open. They run for it. 317

INT. TANK - Chopped hair..all action and nerve. A young Steve McQueen. He looks around at Lou as he revs it and swings it, throwing them into acceleration couches...A TURBOWHINE, a ROAR... They are off, lurching back over the hill. Shells slam into where they've been...Videscreens give 180 vision. Like riding a rocket sled. Amaru looks back toward the trees. 317

AMARU
What about our Shuttle?

MCCOON
Looks like they're gonna blow it right up. (to Lou) How'd you know it was me?

MCNAB
Smelled that thing...

He points to a bad looking cigar clenched in McCoon's teeth.
A Round lands. They lurch through the shell hole. McCoon laughs.

MCCOON
Let's talk later. You can't
stay here. Come for the ride.

EXT. HILLS - LATER - THE TANK SWEEPS OVER A RISE. In the distance, a fortified town. Crystal towers reflect the dying sun and winking gun emplacements. They zip down the slope, dodging gullies, spraying hidden guns. HEAVY SHELLS start coming in.

INT. TANK - MCNAB, AMARU watch MCCOON in action.

MCCOON (on the radio)
Cover!

EXT TANK - They swing into a forest of small trees, moving forward, dodging in and out...AIR BURSTS drive clouds of needles downward. They run straight over a small tree. It dissolves in a sparkling spray of shards. They glance off a big one with a jarring CLANG, pull up under crystal cliffs...

INT. TANK -

MCNAB
How hot is this?

MCCOON
Well, the worst that could happen is that they could kill you. Not like one of those nasty places where they'd wanna take you apart chromosome by chromosome.

They swing behind cover as rockets hit. McCoon drives down a submerged trench system swerving in and out of traffic, insouciant and greatly skilled...a master of treaded warfare...

MCCOON
Victor twelve, on line.

RADIO
Twelve standby.

They swing onto position...A blast of dust, other tanks surge forward...Immediately, one takes a direct hit, LIGHTS the sky.

MCNAB
You lost a few?

MCCOON
They can kill you, but they can't eat you. Not like on Sigma Five.

RADIO CLEARANCE - With a ROAR, he guns it.

EXT.TANK - BLASTS up, sweeps down on the town, Guns blazing. 324 5

EXT TOWN - AFTER THE BATTLE. THEY STAND in the rubble - what used to be the town square. McCoon kicks the shards. 325

MCCOON

Damn. This stuff blows up real nice....Did'ja see it...Pow!

(laughs to himself)

Prettiest rubble I've seen on fifteen planets. WATE PG.

He crosses the square, Amaru says something to him; the words lost in the CLATTER of a collapsing wall.

MCCOON

Aw hell, they'll rebuild it, better than before. It creates jobs. I look at myself as...well.. just the start of urban renewal.

AMARU

What about the people?

MCCOON

They retain the video rights...

McCoon looks at him like he was born yesterday.

MCCOON

It's in the contract. 4

INT. BOMBED OUT CATHEDRAL MADE INTO CANTINA - LATER - They take seats near soldiers blowing off steam. McCoon liberates a bottle, lines up eight whiskey glasses, carefully pours them full. A CHEER goes up. 326

MCCOON

War's over

AMARU

You win?

MCCOON

...Naw.

He drinks the first four whiskies.

AMARU

Well?

MCCOON

Well what?

AMARU

Will you help us?

McCoon gives him a long blurry stare. Then he drinks the last four whiskeys one after another.

MCCOON

Well...as I see it, Man's got to to
what he's good at. (drink) I'm good
at blowing things up. (drink)
Now...Where would civilization be
if things didn't get blown up every
once in a while?

They look at each other. He looks at them, thinks about what he
just said for a moment, then wanders off to check on his tank.
Amaru and McNab look at each other; satisfied.

NIGHTSIDE SKYHOOK TERMINUS - MCNAB, AMARU, MCCOON ARRIVE and one
by one, enter customs. Amaru tries not to show nerves.

VOICE

Identity implant in order?

AMARU

Yes.

VOICE

Just a moment. (A LONG PAUSE)

AMARU (annoyed)

Yes, What is it?

VOICE

A message...An invitation.

AMARU

To where.

VOICE

Ziong Palace.

AMARU

When?

VOICE

Now.

EXT. PLATFORM - MCNAB, MCCOON, AMARU - Sara meets them.

SARA

Did you get one?

AMARU

Yeah. We're not a secret anymore...
If we ever were.

She turns to McNab.

SARA
And you?

McNAB
Get what?

SARA
~~An invitation~~...Maybe they
haven't put it all together.

McNAB
I think I have. You go.
We'll work on the ship.

BASE OF THE ZIONG PALACE. LATER.- TWO ZAKS STAND GUARD. THE GRACEFUL SWIRL OF AN ESCALATOR ASCENDS 1000 METERS FROM THE SURFACE. Amaru is almost surprised when they are passed at the checkpoint. Distinguished people are whisked upwards. ZOE squeezes through the crowd to join them. They ride up together.

ZOE
How'd you get in?

SARA
I was hoping you had something to do with it.

ZOE
Not me. But somebody wants you here.

SARA
What did you see?

ZOE
I saw you leaving on a long trip in a short time.

AMARU
How short.

ZOE
The sooner, the better.

MAIN FLOOR Comes into view...A HANGING GARDEN. Zoe checks out some of the guests...Scary people.

ZOE (sarcastic)
Looks like an amusing group.

5

330

3

4

331

INT. PALACE - A weird Syd Mead party. Holographic face masks..a costume ball. Every kind of Spegan depravity imaginable. THEY spot ZIONG. His image, an interactive hologram, stands in the corner surrounded by syncophants and glitterati...He focuses on a WOMAN in the group...with a superficially good-natured debate. 332

ZIONG

Pirate!...I'm an organizer. I'm against entropy...everything scattering to the winds...The Universe winding down into chaos...Anarchy. No! I am for law and order...Mine of course. (scattered laughter)

WOMAN

Taking Oneil by force, that's law?

ZIONG

We are reaching for the stars. We may find other life forms challenging us. We better be ready for them. We better be organized. They may not be as generous as I am.

THE WOMAN leans in close, says something to him only. 333

ZIONG

Do I make these weapons? Do I make a profit on them? No, they cost plenty. Everything we do...it's pledged to the greater good. Ask your husband...Ask who made these weapons and what his motive was...other than profit.

Amaru moves forward. He recognises the woman even under the mask, CAMELIA. The LEGIONAIRE LIEUTENANT puts his arm around her. He tries to pull her away from Ziong. She resists. 334

CAMELIA

Knowlege.

ZIONG

With Gundam you would have become too powerful...

Camilia stares him down. The Lieutenant draws her away. Her HOLOMASK slips. Amaru sees into it. In her eyes, no surprise, no sign of recognition. She looks directly at him. He freezes, starts to speak, when abruptly, CAMELIA turns away. The LIEUT. acts like he owns her. Amaru is incensed. Sara holds him back. 335

Abruptly, the climax of the evening - ZIONG dims the DOMELIGHTS to reveal his newest acquisition. ONEIL appears around the far horizon, in a parking orbit over Nightside. The chatter slows as, one by one people become aware...awed - ZIONG'S moment of triumph. Music builds. A staged event. ZIONG beams like Herman Goering at his surprise. Everyone applauds. Ziong accepts with good grace. His gaze sweeps in Amaru's direction.

336

SARA

He's looking at us.
He knows.

AMARU

Why doesn't he pick us up?

SARA

Let's leave before he does.

AMARU

Maybe that's what he wants.

SARA

Let's get out of here.

People stare at them...They retreat, growing paranoid. It's the drugged air...designed to smoke out anyone with a problem. At the outer entrance...a figure waits in the shadows...

337

The YOUTH in the Legion uniform steps out...He watches them pass...A flicker of recognition beneath the facemask: Sha...

338
5
1-

EXT. PALACE - NIGHT. ZOE waits for THEM, bemused.

40

339

SARA

What happened to you?

ZOE

I got an idea.

AMARU

So?

ZOE

It wasn't MY IDEA.

ZOE projects faint images before them. Quickly, they are gone.

340

AMARU

Schematics...the Ziong base.
You read their minds?

~~ZOE~~ (thoughtful)

It seems too careless..

SARA

Why should they worry? They know the odds...You saw it. They brought Oneil right here. Five against them? It's hopeless.

A figure steps out of the shadows - The GUNFIGHTER. 341

VON

No. Now it's interesting.

SARA (worried)

Six.

ZOE

Seven...I think I'll come along. Anyway...Look on the Brightside.

AMARU (hopeful)

Why, what happened?

ZOE

The Asteroids lost the pennant. 1

INT. PALACE - Under the eyes of Ziong, Legion Officers pin ZAK 50 342
PILOT BADGES on Sha and other recruits. Proudly Sha takes
Camelia's arm. She smiles at him...The Lieutenant stands nearby.

CAMELIA

You make a handsome Legionaire.
I'm proud...I hope your father...

SHA

(surprised and pleased)
You've changed your mind...
accepted the situation.

CAMELIA

Never.

SHA

Then why did you come here...
for this?

CAMELIA

I had to...I...made a deal.
You are not to leave with
the others.

Sha steps between her and the other people...HE pretends not to be concerned, but his urgency gives him away.

SHA

What others?

CAMELIA

The attack.

He pulls her close, speaks softly, but with urgency.

SHA

Mother, you can't do that.

CAMELIA

It's done.

SHA

What?!!!

Sha turns to confront the Officer's and Ziong. The Lieutenant steps up, blocking his way...Sha starts to speak to him, sees it's useless, turns back to his mother.

SHA

I've trained for this. My
Platoon!...It's my life...
It's my last chance to prove...

CAMELIA

You'll get your chance.

SHA

What did you promise them?
How could you do this?

CAMELIA

Someday you'll understand...

Sha stalks off through the crowd. Camelia's gaze follows him and flicks up to Ziong's platform. Ziong looks at her directly, then turns away. He has been watching them. Camelia stands alone in the middle of the floor surrounded by the sleazoids, yet not at all part of them...The celebration goes on...The Lieutenant moves forward, watching Camelia thoughtfully. He takes her arm.

343

3
1-

ESCAPE SEQ 214 SEC

87

EXT. SPACE - THE SHUTTLE streaks away from NIGHTSIDE. EIGHT ZAK CRUISERS emerge from the ZAK BASE ON FAR SIDE...THE opposite surface of the BINARY TWIN ASTEROID. As the SHUTTLE passes, the CRUISERS pick up the pursuit.

344

INT. SHUTTLE - ZOE plays the consoles. Rapidly, diagrams of the ships structure flip by...AMARU, SARA, MCNAB, LEE, VON, and MCCOON watch...Then, ZOE seems to have something.

345

AMARU

Find it?

ZOE

Integrated into the structure of the ship. A HOMER...

MCNAB

Jam it.

An ALARM - The ZAK ships are visible on the SCREENS.

346

VON

Too late.

3

EXT. SPACE - The ZAK ships close on Amaru's shuttle.

347

AMARU

Get to your stations.

MCCOON

They're too close. You'll lead them right to your base.

AMARU

They know where we're going anyway. Positions! Chaff in 3, WARP in ten.

348

EXT. POV PURSUING ZAK SHIPS - A SWIRLING CLOUD OF CHAFF.

7 348

INT. LEAD ZAK CRUISER - CHAFF FILLS THE VIEWSCREENS

7 349

LEGION LEADER

There's the chaff. Group set for WARP.

LEGION 2

Blue 3, hold on chaff.

350

EXT. SPACE - One ZAK ship breaks formation and hangs back among the Chaff - various phantom targets spin off from the Shuttle - some look like...rocks,...gas clouds...etc. One piece, slightly larger than the others looks like debris... SPACE JUNK. The Scout ship scans and probes the Chaff. The other ZAK ships follow Amaru's SHUTTLE into light speed.

ASTEROID - WHITE BASE - THE STARFIELD WARPS as the SHUTTLE APPEARS...right behind it, however, the ZAK SHIPS JUMP IN.

INT. ZAK LEAD CRUISER

LEGION 2

It's working. We're even picking up their command channel.

They watch a SCREEN above them. The SHUTTLE COCKPIT appears.

MCCOON

Chaff didn't work. They're right on our tail.

SARA

Can 't lead them home.

Another SCREEN lights up. The Legion officers are able to intercept the transmission from WHITEBASE as well.

INT. WHITE BASE CONTROL ROOM - Paolo and Remy look concerned.

PAOLO

Amaru, come down the POLE TRACTOR.

AMARU V.O.

They'll follow us.

PAOLO

We'll turn it on, just for an instant.

AMARU V.O.

They're right on our tail. They'll get through with us.

PAOLO

We'll have to take that chance.

EXT. THE SHUTTLE - DIVES straight down the NORTH POLE of the ASTEROID at terrific speed...6 ZAK CRUISERS follow.

INT. ZAK COMMAND SHIP - The SCREEN shows a grid diagram of the TRACTOR BEAM FORCE FIELD guiding them to the ASTEROID SURFACE.

LEGION OFFICER

Locked on target.

The Commander gets on the SHUTTLE/WHITEBASE channel.

LEGION COMM
Ziong command to fugitive shuttle.
We have you targeted... Why not
give up?

AMARU
Give up, when we're so
close to home?

LEGION COMM
Too close...and too fast. If you
hold this speed even your tractor
beam won't brake you.

Amaru looks surprised...

AMARU
Tractor beam...What tractor beam?

The Commander reacts in horror...

EXT. ABOVE THE ASTEROID SURFACE - THE SHUTTLE rockets straight
down and smashes into the surface...The four ZAK ships in
perfect formation, follow it in...and are destroyed.

INT. ZAK LEADER COMMAND - They watch the impacts in horror...

LEGION LEADER
That's not their base. Grid
formation. Planet surveillance.
Picket ship to Nightside.

COM OFFICER
Message?

LEGION LEADER
Shuttle destroyed. Three Cruisers
lost. We'll find the base.
It'll just take longer.

EXT SPACE - - POSITION WHERE THEY WENT THROUGH WARP DRIVE.- A
SHORT TIME LATER - THE ZAK SCOUT SHIP left behind sits in CLOUD
OF EXPANDING CHAFF...

INT. SCOUT SHIP COMMAND. BLEEP! - A TARGETING SCREEN LOCKS ON.

TARGET OFFICER
Target 663-502-4494

COMMANDER
Why'd you call it?

TARGET OFFICER
Just a feeling...velocity
change..It made a course
correction...for that asteroid.

EXT. SPACE - CLOSE ON TARGET - A spinning piece of SPACE JUNK.

INT. SPACE JUNK - A SHUTTLE ESCAPE POD, HOLOGRAPHICALLY
CAMOFLAGED. AMARU and the OTHERS squeezed in tightly.

INT ZAK SCOUT - The commander thinks for a moment.

COMMANDER
Contact. Could be small craft.
Am in pursuit.

EXT. ESCAPE POD - swings around behind a NEARBY ASTEROID. It
dives into a cleft in the SURFACE. The pursuing ship follows.

INT. ZAK SCOUT

TARGET OFFICER
Target locked.

COMMANDER
Fire at...

EXT SPACE NEAR ASTEROID - The SCOUT swings around the horizon.
Directly ahead, another ship; a COPY of the ZAK SHIP.

INT ZAK SCOUT

COMMANDER
...What the...?!

EXT IRREGULAR ASTEROID SURFACE - AMARU'S POD - DROPS DEEPER INTO
THE CLEFT. The COPY SHIP BLASTS first, blowing the pursuing ZAK
ship apart. The COPY SHIP closes, blasts through the debris and
swings 180°. AMARU'S POD matches velocity and is drawn into the
CARGO BAY of the COPY SHIP.

INT. AMARU'S POD - Amaru ignores confused stares of the group.

AMARU
Come on.

INT. COPY SHIP - HANGAR BAY - They exit the POD. AMARU LEADS
them to a COMMUNICATIONS ROOM. On the SCREENS...the dead
pursuit commander lives...as the techs rewind the captured video
and put new words into his mouth.

AMARU
They bought the holograms?

371-476-4905cc

371
CONT

MOLLOY

We picked up their transmission.
Four Cruisers destroyed...Maybe
twenty ZAKS.

SARA

That evens the odds a bit.

MOLLOY

Well, if they bought that, maybe
they'll even buy this.

ANOTHER SCREEN, A mathematically reproduced WIRE FRAME MODEL of the DESTROYED ZAK SCOUT skims over a COMPUTER MODEL OF THE ASTEROID SURFACE to show the apparent path and velocity of the ZAK SCOUT SHIP (had it not been destroyed). A SECOND COMPUTER MODEL, THIS ONE OF THE COPY SHIP matches velocity until it overlaps the wire frame perfectly.

372

MOLLOY

Velocity Match...exiting far
side...

↓
SAME

EXT SPACE -PURSUIT ZAK'S POV - The COPY SHIP swings out of the COMMUNICATIONS SHADOW of the asteroid. To the trailing ZAK formation, it appears to be their own SCOUT reappearing from behind the rock...

6 (313) 1

INT COPY SHIP - Molloy cuts in the computer-constructed tape of the ZAK SCOUT COMMANDER

374

PHANTOM COMMDR.

Blue three. Remote pod. Impacted
with the far side.

FLIGHT LEADER

Quite a bang...Your status?

PHANTOM COMMDR.

Caught some of the blast. Nothing
serious. Will maintain station.

FLIGHT LEADER

Negative. Return to base. Blue
four, take three's position.

PHANTOM COMMDR.

Sir, we're fully capable.

FLIGHT LEADER
Blue three return to base. Flight
personnel report to the accident
board..

PHANTOM COMMDR.
Sir!

INT COPY SHIP - COM ROOM - They watch the SCREENS. 315

FLIGHT LEADER
That is all. End of transmission.

PHANTOM COMMDR.
Yes sir. (clicks off)

Amaru turns to a computer tech working the console. On the
screen, the dead commander's face turns into Remy's as the
electronic disguise drops. Zoe is very impressed. 316

LEE
What now?

MOLLOY
We just got a pass through
the first defenses. 14

EXT FAR SIDE - THE ~~MAIN~~ ZAK BASE. - A SURFACE OF IRREGULAR DEADLY
FORMS - AS IF ANCIENT BATTLE MACHINES HAD BEEN WELDED INTO THE
SURFACE WITH INTERLOCKING FIELDS OF FIRE. In the distance,
NIGHTSIDE sparkles on the far surface of the Binary Twin.
Defense in depth - Picket ships orbit over the outer approaches.
Giant towers spread a Web of Forcefield Beams. Closer in, over
the Central Plain and Parade Ground, ZAKS patrol on SAUCER-
SHAPED SCOOTERS. a SMALL COMMAND CRAFT dips low over the
FORTRESS WALL and the MAIN GATE. THE GATE, Symbol of the Ziong
Corporate Empire, towers over the plane...like the Gate of TROY. 317
25

INT. COMMAND CRAFT The LIEUTENANT and SHA 318
45

SHA
How could they listen to her, how
could they make that deal. How
could she?

LIEUTENANT

It was your mother who taught you to be a Legionnaire. She is trying to teach you something now.

SHA

By keeping me out of the fight?

LIEUTENANT

Your mother senses that you have not yet chosen your path. Otherwise she would not try to influence you. She would have made a good Legionnaire.

SHA

She hates the Legion.

LIEUTENANT

She's just like us. She values duty...loyalty above everything. Once loyalty is pledged, a Legionnaire would die before betraying his trust. That is the strength of the Legion...and its weakness. When you join the Legion, you pledge yourself to the Legion right or wrong. You give up your right to choose on the larger issue. There is no going back.

SHA

If you are wrong, what do you do?

LIEUTENANT

You fight. You die. You maintain your own Grace. If you are true to your oath, you may come back next time on the right side.

SHA

Could the Legion ever chose wrong.

LIEUTENANT

It has...many times.

This is too personal for the Lieutenant. He turns away...as the craft passes through the Fortress gate and enters the STRONGPOINT - THE CITADEL.

INT. COPYSHIP - THE MOBIL SUIT HOLD - GUNDAM IS THERE, REPAIRED AND REFITTED. FOUR MODIFIED GUNDAMS ALSO WAIT - GUNCANNON, GUNTANK, GUNGRENADIER, GUNFIGHTER. The Seven walk among them.

MCCOON

I've never fought one of these.

McNAB
None of us have.

SARA
You've fought in ZAKS, you've
fought the old TITAN TWOS...MCCOON
used to fight the BOLOS. These are
the same...only better.

VON
You want us to go into battle with
a SUIT we've never flown before?

AMARU
This is no Mobil Suit. This is
Gundam.

SARA
Gundam alone held off the ZAK
attack on ONeil Seven

MCCOON
I heard.

VON
But that was Tim Ray.

SARA
That wasn't Tim.

McNAB
Who was it?

AMARU
Me.

VON
Yeah, right. And you're gonna
fight it this time.

AMARU
That's right.

MCCOON
What about Tim Ray.

LEE
Yeah, where is he...

Amaru looks away...They look at Sara suspiciously...She doesn't
have to say it, McNab guesses.

McNAB
He's dead.

She nods unhappily.

MCCOON

Who's gonna lead us?

VON

Who planned the attack?

AMARU

We did.

VON

No offense, kid, I'm sure you're good. But seven people...even with Tim Ray...

McNAB

We all have to die. How often do you get a chance to die for something.

MCCOON

More and more these days.

McNAB

You've faced worse odds than these.

VON

This...is the Legion.

AMARU

The hot ones were out chasing us. These are garrison troops. It's not expected. If we go in now, we can take em before the rest get back.

VON

It's not that far.

AMARU

It has to be. Or we're dead.

MCCOON

I like the way he puts it. Sort of eliminates the grey areas.

SARA

Don't fight, that's your choice. But you're gonna have to explain what you're doing here to them.

She indicates a SCREEN. They are pulling into range of the DEFENSES. ZAK ships all over the place. McCoon turns to the rest of them.

MCCOON

Well, if I got to explain anything
to anybody, I'm gonna do it from
the inside of one of these suits.

He climbs up on Guntank and gets in...

AMARU

My father had a phrase for
this. Earn while you learn.

MCCOON

My father had a phrase...
Die while you try.

BOMB BAY - THE GUNDAM VARIATIONS ARE SET IN LAUNCH POSITION.

INT. GUN-GRENADIER - ZOE AND LEE

ZOE

Why?

LEE

Why not?

ZOE

You could get killed.

LEE

Or worse...hurt!

ZOE

Then why do it?

LEE

Well... Money... I get to keep the
suit...and anything's better than
being sent back down to Pawtucket.

She turns to go.

LEE

..Why do you do it?

ZOE

...Curiosity.

INT - GUN-FIGHTER - VON AND MOLLOY

Von moves about in the web, practicing his draw and aim.

VON

How we gonna run these things
without practice.

MOLLOY

You have had practice...Well, not
you, but the suits have.

OUTSIDE GUNFIGHTER - The blasters flick out at flitting targets.
INSIDE

VON

What are you talking about?

MOLLOY

They took a brain scan. We've been
running simulations. The suits have
practiced matching up to you.

VON

You scanned my brain?

MOLLOY

Don't complain. At least you got a
tuned fighting machine.

EXT. GUNFIGHTER - He practices his quick draw. Then another suit
comes around the curve. Gundam...Von drops his blasters and
takes his lasersword. They fence...

INT. GUN-FIGHTER - Von is surprised at his own Suit, and by the
fact that Gundam matches him.

VON

Who's in there?

MOLLOY

Amaru.

VON

The kid?

WHAM WHAM...WHAM, rapid sword checks...A blow glances off his
helmet. Despite himself, he is impressed.

VON

This is not your ordinary kid.

EXT. GUNCANNON - Antennae bristle from the HEAD.

INT. GUNCANNON - McNab rapidly programs simulated attacks on
the FORTRESS into tactical computers. Sara watches.

SARA

Tough one. (He nods yes)
You don't seem...too concerned.

McNAB

You reach a point where most of the people you cared about are gone. the good things that happened are so far away...Watching a few more cycles go around..doesn't mean so much.

SARA

It would mean a lot to me.
To all of us.

He smiles at her, distantly.

INT. GUN-TANK - MCCOON HAS GUNTANK WIRE-FRAMES AND READOUTS
UP...He familiarizes himself, making programming modifications.
He notices Zoe beside him, smiles at her. She leans closer.

MCCOON

Good design..Just a few tweaks.

ZOE

You ever think of doing...
something else?

MCCOON

What's wrong with this.?

ZOE

Well, you could get killed.

A beat.

MCCOON

Never thought of that.

He turns back to his work. Is he putting her on?

MCCOON

Used to be, a great artist built a building, or a statue or a tomb. It lasted for hundreds or thousands of years...it was very beautiful and, in the end, it was dust... I make the same beauty and the same dust. Who's to say my art's not valid just because it goes boom.

INT. COPY SHIP COCKPIT -

REMY

We're coming up on it.

SURFACE OF THE ASTEROID - LOW LEVEL POV..Skimming low above the surface, the COPYSHIP rockets...They skim the mountains, drop through the valleys and chasms. 9 392

INT. COPYSHIP - SARA flies like mad. - They others ready their MOBIL SUITS for launch. 7 393

INT. GUNDAM - Amaru climbs into Gundam's cockpit. 5 394

SARA
Amaru...be careful.

AMARU
You know me...OOOF!

He knocks his knee on the cockpit, falls into the webbing.

NIGHTSIDE - the party continues. The auroral curtain and the fireworks are momentarily parted by a PATROL SHIP...that streaks off into the distance. ZIONG says something to one of his lieutenants. The man goes off. ZIONG turns back to his guests. The celebration continues. 8 395

SURFACE OF THE FAR SIDE ASTEROID ROTATES - POV OF THE COPYSHIP. as it zooms above the ZIONG PLATEAU. 6 396

INT. THE COPYSHIP - Zoe is in the Waldo-Window, sitting at a console in front of SCREENS showing POV'S from the WALDOS, Remotely Piloted Attack Vehicles. Amaru and the OTHERS are in the Gundams, ready for release. 7 397

EXT COPYSHIP - Rockets through the auroral sky. Aerial pods like mines drop from racks on the ship and take up station in the sky: Relays for the Waldos and chaff deployers. Zoe releases the chaff...She plays the keyboard...weird shapes drop out and draw the defenders fire.. 11 398

BELOW - ON THE SURFACE - TARGET ACQUISITION RADARS go nuts. GUN BARRELS spin, spewing fire in all directions - even their own positions. 10 399

THE COPYSHIP swings around and one by one the Gundams are launched against specific targets. 10 400

GUNTANK/MCCOON - lands on the flat plateau and drives forward over tank terrain. 6 401

GUNCANNON/MCNAB - Lands on the backside of an opposing ridge and moves forward, low and cautious. He crawls up the opposite side and sights on the plateau. 8 402

THE COPYSHIP orbits the zone again... another rack drops off...LEE, VON GUNDAM drop in ARMORED PODS, pass through the curtain of fire and drop below. their pods burn off and blast away...creating chaff and false targets...the MOBIL SUITS drop quickly through the chaos to the surface. LEE is lobbing grenades into defensive positions even as he drops. 15 403

THEY hit the ground, fan out like a LRRP patrol and take on whatever ZAKS are in the area. 404

EXT. COPYSHIP - makes a pass, suppressing fire from the ridges
ZOE drops three BUZZBOMBS that swirl and home in on cannons at
terrific speed. 405
#3

INT. COPYSHIP - SARA calls to MCNAB/GUNCANNON. 406

SARA
Three laser rounds, H.E.

EXT. PLATEAU SURFACE - GUNCANNON shifts to howitzer position,
tubes a few. They pop out of the barrel in rapid succession. 407

INT COPYSHIP - SARA'S POV - She skims over the surface, arcing
around a TOWER..whips her laser designator on the target...the
rounds follow it and slam home. 408

SURFACE - GUNDAM hits the ground, rocket repells immediately on
the bounce as shells crash into where he just was...He rappels
up a rock chimney and comes onto the top of the ridge just
behind GUNCANNON...also behind a patrol of Zaks who are sneaking
up on GUNCANNON'S rear...Gundam blasts them. As they turn,
Guncannon gives a warning. 409

GUNCANNON-MCNAB
Down.

Gundam hits the deck. GUNCANNON blasts a ZAK behind him Gundam
jumps in beside him, scans the surface for targets... 410

SURFACE - MCCOON/GUNTANK - races over the fields, having a great
time. 411

LOW ANGLE - VON/GUNFIGHTER - He stands on a pinnacle calm and
composed, preparing himself, zenlike...for the next moments.
Then he jumps off and out of sight. 7 412

HIS POV - A trench strong hold, filled with ZAKS - 4 413

THE TRENCH - VON/GUNFIGHTER - On the bounce, he's firing two-gun
style, deadly accurate, in every direction...lightning fast.
Each ZAK, in turn takes a vital hit that disables them, without
causing them to explode and endanger Von in such close quarters. 414

VON/GUNFIGHTER
Trench clear. 10

On cue, MCCOON/GUNTANK blasts through a pass under the silenced
guns of the ZAKS in the TRENCH. 4 415

COPYSHIP - Remy on COMCON as Molloy works ECM controls in B.G. 2 416

REMY
Orbiters in position. 1

SURFACE - Gundam and McNAB/GUNCANNON show themselves, daring the LEGION. There is a THOUSAND METERS of open ground before the approach to the main gate. A few headstrong ZAKS rush them...A close in gunbattle. They close it's LASERSWORD TO LASERSWORD. 417 10

NEAR RIDGE OVERLOOKING FORTRESS GATE - LEE/GUNGRENADIER covers, throwing bombs into gun emplacements. MCCOON/GUNTANK swings round under the fire and gains the HEIGHTS. GUNDAM arrives to protect the position. MCCOON/GUNTANK lays down protective fire on the opposite ridge as the OTHERS move forward. 418 7

COPYSHIP swoops overhead. An ECM (ELECTRONIC COUNTER MEASURES) curtain drops, covering and camouflaging GUNCANNON and OTHERS. 419 - 10

McNAB ✓.o?
Where's the waldos?

THE COPYSHIP skims the far ridge under fire. It lays a rack of WALDOS over the PLAIN in front of the FORTRESS GATE. The mean little buggers skyrocket in all directions.... 420 9

LEGION POSITION - ZAK GUNNERS --have the area zeroed in good...THE WALDOS, like kamikazis, corkscrew in on them, but one by one, they are blasted out of the sky. 421 7

ONE WALDO - TAKES A HIT, turns over and screams straight at the ground in front of the FORTRESS WALL. The defenders let up for a moment and swing their guns away as it's obviously done for. 422 6

THE SURFACE - THE WALDO impacts with a blast that shudders the ground. 423 2

COPYSHIP - ZOE turns to SARA, a quick smile. 424

It's in. ZOE

COMES ALIVE
INTO
CRABER HALL

SUBSURFACE - The WALDO is alive and kicking...REVOLVING LASER CUTTERS tunneling through the strata. 425 7

SURFACE - FOUR more WALDOS impact in short order...A fifth, careens to the side, impacts with the wall and wipes itself and a gun position out. 426 6

OTHER WALDOS flatten their dives and make it to the surface. They whizz forward on flexible tracks, hugging the back contours of the surface for protection. 427 16

ANOTHER WALDO - hits and burrows... 428 3

SUBSURFACE - WIRE FRAME DISPLAY...SIX WALDOS on intersecting vectors...link up...the first one passes, the others come on its tunnel, turn into it and accelerate. They link with the front one. Power surges through them. The front one WHINES higher as it chews through the ground. 429 20

SURFACE FOOTHILLS - A LEGION SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE CARRIER PULLS UP...It tracks the ORBITERS...and fires. 430

ORBITERS - One by one, THEY are BLOWN out of the sky. 431

SURFACE - GUNCANNON CALLS 432

McNAB
Ready for the Waldos. 19

INT. COPYSHIP - as the ORBITERS BLOW UP, one by one, ZOE'S SCREENS go dead. SARA, REMY AND MOLLOY look at her. 433

ZOE
They got the relays. Can't reach the Waldos from here.

SARA
What do we do?

ZOE
Line of sight. I've got to orbit above them ~~or I won't be able to control them.~~

SARA
Right in the middle of that?

She indicates the lethal sky over the battlefield.

ZOE
Yeah. 3

CLOSE TO THE FORTRESS. McNAB/GUNCANNON - knocks out a defensive position, lays down suppressing fire. 434

VON/GUNFIGHTER takes on snipers, machine guns and ZAKS. 5 435

LEE/GUNGRENADIER - knocks out emplacements..opening the approach to the GATE. He spots minute weak spots and sails the grenades right into the ports. 9 436 2

SUBSURFACE WALDO'S POV - Strata rushes at them. In contour maps of relative hardness..They follow the cool colors through relatively soft rock. 437 1

COPYSHIP -WALDO-WINDOW - ZOE - Her hands play over the keyboard as she controls the WALDO tunnelers below. THE WINDOW DISPLAY - shows the color contours and a wire-frame model of hidden mines and forcefields...Zoe avoids them with slight control movements. A NEAR MISS rocks the ship and jostles Zoe. 438 1

ZOE
Damn. 2

SUBSURFACE. The WALDOS go off track, wander into a mine. 2 439 1

SURFACE BENEATH THE FORTRESS WALLS. The blast splits the earth. 1 440

THE ZAKS - The blast draws attention. They move to the GATE. 3 441 2

INT. COPYSHIP - Remy and Molloy watch SCREENS from the GUNDAMS. 3 442

REMY
Not yet, McNab.

McNAB
Make it soon.

SURFACE - other waldos are picked off. As they are knocked to the surface, they reconfirm themselves to tracked vehicles and move forward over the plain. 443 2

VON (V.O.)
Look out.

VON/GUNFIGHTER steps in front of Gundam to take the brunt of a ZAK assault...A ZAK appears behind him and fires. He goes down. 4 444 2

INT. GUNFIGHTER - VON is enveloped by smoke and flames as the GUNFIGHTER blows up. 3 445 1

GUNDAM is blown back. THE ATTACK IS STALLED. 4 446 1

INSIDE GUNDAM - AMARU is frustrated.

AMARU
Let's rush them. 2 447 1

LEE/GUN-GRENADIER takes out a mortar emplacement, as he is hit and goes down, damaged. 4 448 1

INT. COPYSHIP - Zoe struggles with the subsurface Waldos...She finds the forth in line..responding. She blasts the ones in front...it backs down the tunnel, then swings off and chews around the blockage...there are only two left, but they are moving slowly forward. 449 25

INT COPYSHIP - Zoe is relieved and hopeful. 450

ZOE
It's clear.

Just then the COPYSHIP is hit..Smoke fills the cockpit. 451

SARA
We're going in. 3

The COPYSHIP loses power. It's hit again and rolls over..It noses over, a DIVESCREAM builds...They all hang on.. 452 5

ZOE
~~Can you~~ hold it!

SARA
No. *10 min*

~~But~~
~~A few more seconds~~

WALDO-WINDOW - The WALDOS are moving. They press forward. She's losing the picture. Sara struggles with the controls.

EXT. ZAK'S POV - COPYSHIP skimming the ridges above the targeted area in a cone of Anti-Spacecraft fire...

INSIDE GUNDAM - AMARU see's the WALDO'S progress on his SCREEN.

AMARU
Now. Now. Do it now.

INT. COPYSHIP - SARA looks at her, pleading. Zoe holds steady.

ZOE
Just a few more seconds.

SURFACE- INSIDE GUNTANK -

MCCOON
Come on, do it.

EXT GUNCANNON - exposes himself to Blast the ZAK guns.

LEE/GUN-GRENADIER - up on one elbow...launching grenades.

INT. COPYSHIP - WALDO SCREEN - One by one the WALDOS blow... breaching the minefield line by line. The end of the minefield in sight, they break through and drive to the base of the WALL

ZOE
Now.

*SUPER
STYL*

*SUPPORT TOWERS
PROTECT WALL
~~LAUNCHING~~
GLOW IN FRONT*

She hits the firing pin....The screen WHITES OUT.

SURFACE - A tremendous subterranean blast...The wall warps and the shield crumbles inward. For just a moment, it is breached.

INT. COPYSHIP - Remy, Molloy, Sara and Zoe brace themselves.

EXT. COPYSHIP - An ESCAPE POD pops out just before the SHIP clips a ridge and rolls intself into a fiery ball.

SURFACE - GUNDAM RUSHES THROUGH THE BREACH firing at ZAK defenders inside the Wall. The FORCEFIELD flickers. MCNAB/GUNCANNON pours fire into THE FORCEFIELD GENERATORS to keep it open and to keep GUNDAM from being trapped inside the walls... alone.

INT. FORTRESS -ZAK'S POV - A ZAK gets hit. Others pull back.

EXT. FORTRESS - LEE/GUNGRENADIER - is up and wobbling toward the BREACH, taking out pillboxes as he goes.. 4 466

GUNDAM GETS TO THE BOTTOM OF THE WALL... Suddenly, the fire slacks off. A figure appears above. 4 467

A YELLOW COMMAND MODEL ZAK9 - DROPS to the surface. He lines up on GUNDAM - A-hand-to hand battle like Hector and Achilles. 3 468

MCCOON AND THE OTHERS pin down ZAK reinforcements. 4 469

FINALLY, GUNDAM DEFEATS THE BIG ZAK. THE ZAKS are outraged by the defeat of their champion. Resistance stiffens.. 20 470

INT. GUNDAM - Amaru looks back. McNab is under heavy fire. 3 471

MCNAB/GUNCANNON IS STAGGERED BY A HIT. 14 472

McNAB

Go ahead, I'll hold them.

AMARU

Come on, you can make it.

The giant machine stares at him for a moment.

McNAB

Yeah, I could, couldn't I?

He turns back to the fight. A blast tears his leg off. As he falls, he takes out the opposing ZAK. In a moment, he is swept under. 473

Another UNDERGROUND WALDO EXPLOSION opens up a downward sloping tunnel. A ZAK fires at GUNDAM. From the BREACH, MCCOON/GUNTANK fires a covering salvo from his cannons. GUNDAM jumps down into the crater and moves forward to the tunnel. The defenders fall back as the other MOBIL SUITS press forward to the BREACH. 8 474

INT. TUNNEL - GUNDAM - races down it, to the interior of the CITADEL... Gundam blasts at the floor, blows open a hole and drops through. ~~Then it is fighting from one level to the next... each weirder than before.~~ 5 (475)

INT. - A HOLD - GUNDAM - As he drops, he sweeps the area with fire. Before he hits, he blasts the floor and drops straight through to another level. Defenders swarm, but their armor and armaments are no match for HIM...FOR AMARU. They fall back. He blasts his way through, into another corridor... He walks straight through the subterranean passages punching through walls, tearing out ceilings. Then, before him, the COMMAND CHAMBER. He blasts it open, the last defenders pull back. One small figure stands alone against the far wall. 20 476

INT. COMMAND CHAMBER - ZIONG - stands behind a desk...a STARMAP of the region behind him. He moves around in front of the desk. He is calm, composed. Gundam moves toward him, menacing... 7 477

ZIONG
Tim Ray?

INSIDE GUNDAM - Amaru...fierce.

AMARU
Amaru.

ZIONG
Where is Tim Ray?

AMARU
Dead.

EXT. GUNDAM swings his gun on him.

ZIONG
Go ahead, shoot! Please It will
shorten discussion.

Gundam takes aim.

INSIDE GUNDAM - AMARU tightens on the trigger. On the screen,
Ziong looks very cool...dispassionate.

ZIONG
No, here! Let me do it.

EXT. GUNDAM - Quickly, ZIONG pulls his sidearm and blows his own
head off.

INSIDE GUNDAM - Amaru's eyes and the screen adjusts to the
flash.

EXT. GUNDAM - Ziong is still there, intact.

ZIONG
Now! You try it.

He walks towards Gundam. As he does, the floor disappears. He
seems to float.

ZIONG
I'm an image, a spokesman. Holo-
graphic figurehead, you might say..
Like a king or a president. I give
orders, announce things...Kill me?
Even if you could, what would it
serve? I don't control events.
Events control me. I don't control
anything.

AMARU

Who does?

ZIONG

It doesn't work that way. Things are far too complicated for that. I represent historical trends... statistical tendencies... a new concept of government. Just look at all we've accomplished.

AMARU

War and destruction!

ZIONG

Cross fertilization.

AMARU

Death.

ZIONG

Elimination of dangerous and unstable elements.

AMARU

Like my father.

ZIONG

Your father was too destructive.

AMARU

He was a creator.

ZIONG

Are you creating when you create the means of destruction.

AMARU

You are the ones who put his machines to destructive use.

Ziong laughs long and hard...not quite a human sound. When he turns back his gaze is hard. He is speaking the truth.

ZIONG

We are his machines. Weapons are a life form too. When you invent one, sooner or later, it must be used.

AMARU

Gundam was not a weapon.

ZIONG

It is now. Don't blame me. I am just a program. I am Tim's program...as you are. Was he able to debug you of violence...Then why me? Don't blame me. You're human. Blame it on yourself.

AMARU

We didn't want this war.

ZIONG

Then why did you fight it. Tell me, human...it's fun, isn't it? We run the simulations again and again. It's the only thing we can come up with. It's fun. Humans enjoy it.

ZIONG

Our program says there will always be wars...the only thing is to win them. By striking first.

AMARU

We've won this one.

ZIONG (smiles)

You think so?

Amaru notices...behind him and to the side...A MONSTROUS RED ZAK glides into sight. Under the cover of Ziong's bullshit, the ZAK has gotten the drop on him.

494

ZIONG

What difference would it make?
...a year, ten years, a hundred years...what would be the difference.

ZAK

You won't be here.

The ZAK fires at GUNDAM. It blows past him to Ziong and blows the whole room away.. As Ziong crackles out of sight...a parting shot.

495

ZIONG

Now isn't that typical. Go ahead, shoot up the hardware...Pudding head.

ZAK

Guy Always was full of shit.

Then it turns its gun on Gundam - point blank.

AMARU

He's destroyed?

ZAK

So what?

The ZAK snaps off a warning shot. It slams into the remnants of a bulkhead above and behind Gundam.

AMARU

You've nothing to fight for.

ZAK

Don't I?

He brings up his main armament: A MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHER ~~in~~ his right gauntlet. Missiles shoot out in a five finger pattern and swirl around Gundam - a near miss and a challenge. Before he can fire again, Gundam rockets straight up on his thrusters. The RED ZAK follows.

They battle their way further into the interior of the fortress...through large deserted hangars...Gundam is on a rampage...blasting everything in sight...The RED ZAK is enraged, chasing him, trying to cut him off before he destroys everything. It becomes a battle for territory.

INSIDE GUNDAM - The COMCON SCREEN comes fitfully to life... messages from the others.

MCCOON

Gundam, where are you. It's over...

LEE

Come in Gundam....

Amaru doesn't answer.

EXT. GUNDAM - He is on a rampage of destruction...He runs through OTHER ROOMS and tears them up with his ROCKET LAUNCHER The RED ZAK chases him...looking for a shot.

INT. LEGION'S MILITARY MUSEUM - Old BATTLECRAFT are mothballed in giant caverns...Amaru seems determined to destroy them all. As if destroying the legion's past will destroy it's present.

AMARU

Your contract is over. The legion
is through with this.

ZAK

I'm not.

GUNDAM fires his rocket launcher... THE ZAK jumps just in time. Gundam empties. The Zak launches a salvo, Gundam closes and uses his shield at an angle. The rockets are too close to arm. They carom off the shield, explode amidst the equipment. Behind the shield, GUNDAM grabs his ASSAULT GUN. A ROCKET hits under the shield, BLOWS GUNDAMS ARM OFF.

INSIDE GUNDAM - Amaru involuntarily screams.

OUTSIDE - GUNDAM staggers but doesn't go down. He comes back at the ZAK with renewed fury. GUNDAM wields his MAR with a single hand...dodging, crashing in, over and through war equipment...blasting his way back to the stone age.

The ZAK clicks empty. GUNDAM uncovers and fires... Momentarily outgunned, The ZAK drops through a hole in the floor.

LOWER LEVEL - More ALIEN MACHINES...THEY creep around, firing. Both take hits...GUNDAM slams against the wall, fires his HEAD GUNS and BLOWS OFF the ZAK's wrist..GUNDAM rockets forward. A blast spins him, crashing through a wall.

CAVERN - knocking apart machines, GUNDAM spins into a tangle.

INSIDE GUNDAM - Amaru struggles with the controls. They are getting sloppy. Turbines whine. Nothing moves. He blasts jets.

OUTSIDE GUNDAM - He's caught, trapped under old MOBIL SUITS. His jet nozzles are holed and twisted...blasting at each other. With great effort, he twists upright.

INSIDE GUNDAM - AMARU-The Red ZAK fills the SCREEN. Amaru moves.

OUTSIDE GUNDAM - The head guns fire.

THE ZAK - Fires at the same moment and BLOWS GUNDAM'S HEAD OFF.

GUNDAM - where his head was...a tangle of wires and sparks.

INSIDE GUNDAM - COCKPIT fills with smoke. SCREENS SHORTING OUT. ALARMS, EXPLOSIONS in the distance. CRACKLES from his outside sensors...His hand reaches for the emergency release...

OUTSIDE GUNDAM - THE ZAK moves to POINT BLANK RANGE and brings the gun to bear. 500

INSIDE GUNDAM - with GUNDAM'S sensors out, Amaru is blind and deaf. He wills himself to SEE...to SENSE through the darkness. He moves his hand around, as if searching for something below. 505

OUTSIDE GUNDAM - THE ZAK aims at the breastplate, squeezes the trigger. 506

INSIDE GUNDAM - Amaru sweeps his arm forward. 507

OUTSIDE GUNDAM - The good arm MOVES IN SYNC, the LASERSWORD in it enters the ZAK's midsection. He starts to BLOW UP.. 508

INSIDE THE ZAK - Pilot struggles as the COCKPIT fills with smoke, heats white hot. 509

OUTSIDE THE ZAK - The ~~ZAK HEAD~~ ^{Chest} BLOWS ~~OFF~~ ^{OUT} on thrusters, the ~~HEAD~~ ESCAPE POD blasts away FIRING. The body of the ZAK topples forward. Toward Gundam....too close. 510

GUNDAM whips back his sword, rolls on his stomach, a quick slice and he's cut through the floor. He rockets through just before the ZAK BLASTS APART. 511

INSIDE GUNDAM - Amaru falls blind..in the dark...deeper and deeper into the UNDERWORLD. 512

OUTSIDE - GUNDAM falls a long way, then lands in a DESERTED LAND..as if...another dimension. Tanguy-Daliesque landscape. 513

INSIDE GUNDAM - Amaru tries the escape circuits...nothing works. Amaru is trapped...alone and frightened...a prayer... 514

AMARU
Father...GUNDAM...Help me.

A CLICK. The HATCH whines open..Amaru leaps out it...BACK ROCKETS thrust him to the side. He hits the ground, looks up. Already in the distance, HEADLESS GUNDAM clanks down the terrain toward an uncertain light source. IT seems to sense something... AMARU sees it, THE ZAK HEAD lurks above GUNDAM. GUNDAM'S sword flashes. THE HEAD fires as the sword hits and kills it. 515

The ZAK HEAD'S last shot enters GUNDAM'S open neck and rockets down inside him. HE is blown apart...The blackened shell topples forward and sinks to the ground. The PILOT of the ZAK HEAD topples out and retroblasts just before the crash. He lands uninjured, turns to another figure in the distance, silhouetted against the burning destruction. AMARU. 516

The helmeted ZAK pilot fires at him. Amaru returns fire and blasts to the left, behind some rubble. They swirl in a dogfight, each one looking for an opening; A smaller version of their previous battle.. 517

Amaru's thrusters go dead, he unstraps them and sails them off as a target. The PILOT blasts them apart..Then they run out of ammo..the guns click empty. Amaru retreats into another area. 518

AN ANCIENT ARMAMENT ROOM - ~~Amaru grabs a sword.~~ The Zak pilot is on him; a terrific freefall ~~sword~~ fight, ~~the swords break~~ ~~against the helmets...~~ they fight unarmed, karate style. 519

Finally, exhausted, they are reduced to choking each other, locked in a stranglehold neither able to win, neither willing to give way.

AMARU

I know you?

SHA

You used to. Not any more.

AMARU

I am Amaru.

SHA

Where is my father?

AMARU

Your father?

SHA

And yours.

Amaru peers into his faceplate.

AMARU

Sha?

SHA

Lieutenant Sha.

AMARU

Father is dead.

SHA

I don't believe it.

AMARU

It's true...it's over...
What are we fighting for?

Amaru releases him. Sha rolls away, tears off his helmet, grabs a sword. He flips it to Amaru. Amaru catches it. Sha raises his own sword to Samaurai fighti 520

Sha looks around ironically at the the destroyed heart of the ZIONG COMMAND.

SHA
The right of succession.

Suddenly Amaru begins to understand.

SHA
Just you and me....A game.
One big GO game...Always
brilliant in defense.

AMARU
...Mother?

SHA
Somebody worked this out.

AMARU
The battle plans...She helped
us through Zoe.?

SHA
She got to somebody. Maybe the
Lieutenant, maybe Ziong. She got
to me. She must have known father
was dead.

AMARU
She knew. I told her.

SHA
You would have destroyed Ziong...Or
I would have. ~~Either way, she wins.~~
Maybe humans are still smarter.

Amaru lowers his sword.

AMARU
Then what are we fighting for?

Sha raises his.

SHA
To win.

Amaru freezes in defense... then moves toward him.

SPACESTATION ONEIL SEVEN - ORBITING THE BINARY ASTEROID.

INSIDE ONEIL - Camelia, working in the garden, sets a memorial stone to TIM RAY into the sod. She straightens up and wipes her brow. As she does, she notices figures walking toward her through the woods. A black helmeted officer appears. She looks up, horrified..

CAMELIA

Oh, no.

~~OFFICER~~

~~...I'm sorry...~~

CAMELIA

No...not Sha.

In panic, she turns to the others, still in the shadows. The second man steps out...it is Sha. She runs to him. She hugs him gratefully, then quickly turns to the messenger..Her worst fears:

CAMELIA

Amaru!...not Amaru!

The helmeted figure speaks...

OFFICER

Yes...Amaru.

She is horrified. Her eyes open with shock at the loss. Then he takes his helmet off...it's AMARU. She runs to him, they embrace.. Sara appears nearby...Camelia hugs her children to her...Amaru breaks away...and looks around at Oneil...

~~SHA~~

~~We're both alive....~~

~~What were the odds...?~~

~~CAMELIA~~

~~...Good. They were good odds.~~

~~SHA~~

~~We were all his sons...Me...Amaru~~
~~...ZIONG...GUNDAM.~~

~~CAMELIA~~

~~No. There was just you two.~~

AMARU

Did you know we would fight each other?

CAMELIA

I knew you wouldn't.

SHA

Why did you do it...Power?

CAMELIA

Your father was dead. What was I to do, sit around and mourn? Now you are both men. We are free...for the moment. Now it's up to you.

SHA

And which one holds the keys to the kingdom.

CAMELIA

I don't know...Why don't we talk about it.

AMARU

Well...it's good to be home.

MUCH LATER - SPACE - Oneil driven by tugs and escorted by WHITEBASE moves through a star field.

INT. WHITE BASE COMMAND.

REMY

Where do we go?

MOLLOY

Go...we go somewhere where there's peace and justice...freedom... no threat of violence...ever again.

Remy thinks for a minute...

REMY

There aint no place like that.

MOLLOY

Yeah, I know.

INT. ONEIL - HIGH UP ON THE CURVE OVERLOOKING THE INLAND SEA, THE VILLIAGES, THE HILLS, The sun(set) streaming through the clouds...a small group of people, a few simple markers.

Sara places flowers on McNab's grave. She turns to Amaru.

SARA

He got what he wanted. He's not alone.

Zoe turns from Von's marker and joins McCoon, Lee Amaru, Sha, Sara, and Camelia.

AMARU

And he's got a home.
He'll be remembered.

SHA

And father?

CAMELIA

He left things behind.
He left you.

SARA

And he left his work.
He left Gundam.

Cries from above...Swooping shadows flitting across the graves.

SARA

Not too low, Timmy...

SHA

Watch your sister, Amaru.

FAR ABOVE THEM, swooping in the breeze, THREE YOUNG KIDS, in flying suits...swirl about...like birds...

527

20

AMARU

Flies like a bird..She'll be as good as you were.

SARA

Better.

AMARU

Maybe so.

CAMELIA

Maybe we all will. Maybe we'll all get better.

AMARU

Maybe we won't ever need him again.

Amaru smiles at her...they turn away to look out at the kids. They glide way out over the valley...into the sun(set) over the inland sea. They swoop down to a clearing in Central Park.

A MASSIVE FIGURE stands like a SENTINEL. He looks out, down the curve of the torus...The kids swoop and duck around his immobile head...Younger kids and barking puppies frolic about his feet...birds preen on his shoulders. Chattering squirrels romp down his arms and over his rifle. Vines cling to his heels...he doesn't seem to mind. He's a memorial and a reminder and he'd be content to stand there forever...if they never, ever again, need GUNDAM.

END

Chip Proser
Hollywood, California. USA
November 12, 1983

GLOSSARY

SPACE STATION ONEIL

Space habitat of conventional form first proposed by Cole and Oneil. A torus or doughnut shape revolving around a central manufacturing hub. The living area has a gravity of 1 at the land surface. The artificial gravity becomes less as you approach the inner surface (up) permitting human winged flight for recreation. The manufacturing hub does not revolve and thus is No-grav; a perfect environment for space manufacturing of massive structures. Various manufacturing (ships) in this area remotely control robot arms and freefloating manipulators (nicknamed Waldos) through human operators sitting in the comfort and safety of the ships and watching on banks of tv monitors (The Waldo-window.)

Oneil is a peaceful and affluent land. Under the guidance of leading Macro designers it has created, among other things, Zak Mobil Suits...and a new secret design for a mobil suit, Gundam.

ZAK MOBIL SUIT

100 METERS TALL, ARMORED MACHINE IN HUMAN ANATOMICAL FORM. The bipedal human form being found to be the most adaptable configuration for exploration and defense. It is piloted by a human who sits in an armored and shock absorbing cockpit in the chest and who sees through TV monitors. The Zak is not as fast as a fighter, not as armored as a tank, and performs an infantry roll in Deep space, on the surface of a planet or anywhere else, infantry would normally be used.

GUNDAM

An improved model mobil suit, the last work of it's designer, Tim Ray. Designed by him in secret as a defense against the ZAK.

WHITE BASE

A manufacturing ship, movable like a tug or seaplane tender, but not designed as a fighting ship. In the heat of their escape from Oneil, the colonists magnetically jury-rig components to the main frame, turning it into an ad hoc fighting ship.

GLOSSARY

SHUTTLE

A small ship capable of atmospheric entry...(most space ships are not) Numerous designs used by both sides as picket ships, transports, attack ships etc... comparable to a HUEY.

SCATER

A small space ship incapable of withstanding the stresses of planetary entry; designed for space travel, ship to ship or ship to asteroid or Space station.

MAR

Mobil Assault Rifle - Generic name for main armament of both ZAKS and Gundam. Comparable to a M-16 or AK-47 but much bigger.

WALDO

Remotely Piloted (unmanned) Vehicle. In manufacturing, configured with welding arms, manipulating arms etc...In battle, equipped with various armaments for specific missions, Capable of moving faster, hitting harder, surviving more hostile environments, than manned vehicles. And, it can blow itself up.

WALDO WINDOW

Area in mother ship where human pilot sits and with the help of tv, radar, radio and infrared links, operates the waldo.